

Ceasefire collapses

Yugoslav navy shells Dalmatian coast port

By DESSA TREVISAN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIGHTING raged across Croatia yesterday as the noon ceasefire designed to save Yugoslavia from civil war came and went. The port of Split was attacked from air and sea, and the federal navy maintained its blockade of six other ports in defiance of the truce agreed with Lord Carrington on Tuesday.

The captain of a British ship outside Split said the navy gunboats had launched a fierce bombardment on a harbour in the port as the army exchanged fire with Croatian forces on land.

Heavy fighting was also reported in Varszdina, Vukovar, Dugo Selo, Karlovac, Sibenik and other towns. In the capital, Zagreb, people standing in front of the railway station threw themselves under cars as gunfire rang out.

In Dubrovnik, one of the seven ports blockaded on Tuesday, tourists were stranded as ferries failed to sail. A federal navy ship was said to be positioned outside the harbour while another patrolled the waters south of the port. The mayor of Zadar, another of the blockaded ports, said the federal army was advancing. "We're expecting bombing at any moment," Ivo Livjanic said. "We're expecting a massacre."

Meanwhile, Luka Bebic, the Croatian defence minister who had on Tuesday ordered an end to a siege of federal army bases in advance of the ceasefire, resigned. Differ-

ences between Mr Bebic and the republic's president, Franjo Tudjman, had become apparent when Mr Tudjman said that those who had issued the ceasefire before it was due to go into effect would be called to account.

Mr Tudjman later said that he would not withdraw from the bases and accused the federal army of violating the ceasefire. General Andrija Raseta, the army's deputy commander in Zagreb, in turn blamed the Croats for the fighting that shook the capital shortly after the truce was signed.

In spite of the viciousness of the clashes, Lord Carrington said he had not given up hope that the ceasefire could succeed. "It is too early to write off this agreement. It would have been very optimistic to suppose that at 12 o'clock all fighting would have stopped," he told French radio. "We have to leave it for 24 hours



and see how the ceasefire goes. If there is just sporadic fighting, we can live with that."

Earlier, he had told the BBC that he feared a bloody civil war if the truce failed. "There is such animosity and such a build-up of bitterness that it is very difficult to see what we can do other than encourage them to believe that this is the last chance."

But the Yugoslav president, Stipe Mesic, said he did not believe the federal army or Serbian guerrillas would stop fighting. Mr Mesic, a Croat, said Yugoslavia now existed only in name and added that he would resign on October 7 when a freeze on independence moves by Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia expires. The collapse of Yugoslavia seemed even more likely last night after the Macedonian parliament adopted a declaration of independence.

Generals' fear, page 10
Bernard Levin, page 16
Diary, page 16

Bank sees an upturn

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND PHILIP BASSETT

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, said last night that the economy was climbing out of recession, but warned that cutting interest rates too far would risk repeating errors of the late eighties.

He told businessmen in the West Midlands that the economy was "undeniably improving". He saw encouraging

signs in manufacturing output, wholesale and retail prices, labour costs, and consumer confidence, and was confident that further benefits would feed through from base rate cuts made since October.

The CBI also said yesterday that pay increases were now running well below 6 per cent.

Business, page 23

House for Mann, page 11

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Continued on page 22, col 2

Dutch ease Major's fear over a federal Europe

From GEORGE BROCK IN THE HAGUE

PRESSURE on Britain to agree unwelcome shifts towards a federal Europe eased yesterday after a meeting in The Hague between the British and the Dutch prime ministers.

Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, will chair the EC's crucial summit in Maastricht early in December and yesterday he acknowledged that the Community would not achieve "100 per cent" unity by then. Over the past few weeks the Dutch government, which is formally committed to a united states of Europe, has floated ideas for EC "political union" which have horrified London.

However, the radical proposals have not been officially presented to the conference revising the EC's treaty. Yesterday Mr Lubbers hinted that

his government, which is internally divided over EC policy, would take account of likely British resistance. The Maastricht summit, he said, would not be the "final result" or "100 per cent" political union. The decisions taken at the end of the year, he said, would be one stage in a process of Europe finding a single voice.

He said that in creating the single market and moving towards economic and political union, the Community could move quickly. On other issues such as joint foreign policy, the 12 governments would have to be more cautious. "The speeds at which we can come together to a more common approach will be different."

John Major also drew a clear distinction between the

monetary and the political talks, saying that the EC negotiations were in better shape. "Progress has self-evidently been made," he said, "and some of the difficulties are becoming smoother."

The pressure to join the EC from Eastern European countries and perhaps from newly-independent Soviet republics too is also smoothing away Mr Major's problems. One Dutch minister at the talks, Piet Dankert, said that while the 12-nation EC had until recently discussed a future for a Community of no more than 15 states, it now had to anticipate something like 25 members.

Yesterday's meeting does not mean that Mr Major has removed all the obstacles that litter his route to Maastricht. The prime minister has attached importance throughout the year to keeping two sorts of intergovernmental decision-making outside the EC system. Earlier outlines of the political treaty due to be signed in Maastricht kept foreign policy and criminal justice outside the EC. The Dutch are now poised to propose that the EC should include all issues under review but that joint foreign policy and justice should be exempted from ordinary procedures until the treaty is next reviewed.

The British government is unlikely to swallow the initial Dutch compromise on the structure of the Community's decision-making since it would commit the EC to federalism which Mr Major and several other EC states oppose. But yesterday's tolerant tone from the Dutch government, which contrasted sharply with the threats of British isolation issued by the previous Luxembourg presidency, suggests that there is scope for further talks.

Mr Major will make short visits to European capitals between now and the Maastricht summit. He has already planned trips to President Mitterrand of France and Chancellor Kohl of Germany. There has been discussion between EC states on holding an extra EC summit next month to discuss relations with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. But Mr Lubbers said yesterday that no extra summit was planned.

Crucial decisions, page 10
Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Yeltsin suffers mild heart attack

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin, the Russian president, was taken ill yesterday less than 24 hours before the opening of the new session of the Russian parliament, reportedly with a heart complaint. There was no confirmation that he was in hospital.

The acting chairman of the Russian parliament and a staunch Yeltsin ally, Ruslan Khasbulatov, was quoted as saying that Mr Yeltsin was "slightly ill", while other reports said he had suffered "a mild heart attack". Parliamentary spokesmen were still hoping that he would be well enough to address today's opening session as planned, but the euphoria which would have marked the first assembly of parliament since the defence of the "White House" during last month's coup, will be dampened.

Mr Yeltsin has experienced heart problems for several years. He was undergoing hospital treatment for a heart attack when he was summoned by Mikhail Gorbachev to be dismissed as first secretary of the Moscow Communist party organisation four years ago.

The Russian Federation, which had emerged triumphant from last month's at-



Yeltsin: illness dampens parliamentary euphoria

tempted coup, was dealt a double blow yesterday. The reports of Mr Yeltsin's illness were followed by the news that the Russian prime minister, Ivan Silayev, had decided to move permanently to the centre's economic administration and resign his post.

Last week, Mr Silayev said he would leave the centre's four-man interim economic committee after accusations that as Russian prime minister he was neglecting the interests of the other republics.

Crucial decisions, page 10
Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Humpty Dumpty jibe over sermon

The Archbishop of Canterbury joins critics of the clergyman urging a split church, reports Ruth Gledhill

Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, has accused the Archdeacon of York of speaking like Humpty Dumpty talking to Alice. Dr Carey, in a letter to *The Times* today, says the that archdeacon's analysis of the church as split into liberal and traditionalist warring factions is a case of "cavalier language", as used by Humpty Dumpty to Alice in Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*.

The archdeacon, George Austin, called for the Church of England to split in two as the only way to avoid open schism. In his first comment on Mr Austin's sermon at York Minister, Dr Carey insists that the church is not in terminal decline. He demands to know the grounds for the archdeacon's prediction that, within five years, the church's liturgies will address God as "she".

The archbishop's comments are the latest in a series of stinging literary allusions to be directed at the archdeacon by clerical superiors. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, has said that he reminded him of "the Fat Boy in the *Pickwick Papers* who creeps up on a timid old woman saying, 'I want to make your flesh creep'."

Dr Carey says that the church expects that its leaders will "act and speak Continued on page 22, col 5

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17



Two churches will need two gods.

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

Letters, page 17

A palindrome? One nine nine nine ... no

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

WHICHEVER way you look at it, today is special - if a trifle difficult to put into words. Anyone spotted desperately scribbling numerals on scraps of paper or pumping calculators in fevered concentration should be treated with particular sympathy.

They are likely to be suffering from an uncontrolled attack of the palindromes, a strange and compelling search for dates, names and verses that read the same forwards and backwards with unerring precision. Attacks are likely to have been triggered by the sight of the seven-figure palindrome 19.9.1991 magically appearing on breakfast-table calendars across the country, although the abbreviated written version fails to achieve the feat by a single letter.

The obsession, which can strike a Thomas, Richard or Harold just as easily as a Bob, Eve or Hannah, dates back at least to ancient Greece and can be blamed on Sodates, a poet said to have started the mania in the third century BC. 1991 is being celebrated as the year of the palindrome, with today's two-digit offering considered something of a cracker. No other two-digit palindrome will appear "until 11.1.2111, which is in 120 years' time," said Beverley Stott, a mathematician and headteacher of Beechview county middle school in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

There have been many other palindromes dates this century, include such examples as 10.9.1901 and 17.9.1971, but the last version containing only two-digits came 80 years ago, falling on 11.9.1911. "The

one we will all be waiting for will be in 221 years," said Mrs Stott. This will be a single-digit beauty, 2.2.2222. That far-off month will also be distinguished by having a single-digit palindrome on the 22nd: this conjunction of two single-digit palindromes dates in a single month last happened, the lay mathematicians say, in January 1111.

At least one mathematically minded member of staff at *The Times* has identified the date of 1.10.2011 as being worthy of inspection.

The phenomenon is not confined to numerals. Words like civic, radar, madam, and deified are all examples. Younger readers with records by Abba and Tina might have spotted the popularity among Scandinavian pop groups for palindromes.

Some particularly smitten individ-

uals, like the poet William Camdem, have even composed Latin verse that is palindromic, although all such attempts pale in comparison to those of Georges Perec, a French writer. In 1969 he wrote his bewildering five-page, 5,000-word, epic which commenced: "Trace l'inégale palindromie. Neige. Bogatelle. dira Hercule", and ended: "Haridelle, ta gabegie ne mord ni la plage ni l'écart."

Those with a skill for spotting palindromes were once endowed with mystic powers. As late as the 19th century a Latin palindromic square, based on the word Sator and found on a Roman wall in Cirencester, was engraved on charms and used by pregnant women to help ensure a healthy birth.

Diary, page 16

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

LIZA WITH AN M



Liza Minnelli playing a character called Mavis? Hollywood's firecracker snaps back in *Stepping Out* Page 15

NURSED BY NAME



The idea that nurses should have names rather than titles pre-dates John Major's approval. But how does the system work? Page 13

ATWOOD AS EVER



The new Margaret Atwood supplies no amazement, a few (naughty) surprises and the usual amount of rather wicked life Page 14

Arts	15-20
Books	14
Births, marriages, deaths	18, 19
Classified	19, 29-34
Crosswords	19, 22
Degree results	31
Focus: Small Businesses	32, 33
Health	13
Leading articles	17
Letters	17
Obituaries	18
Pets	30
Reviews	30
Science and Technology	31
TV & radio	21
Weather	22



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Money tumbles in for the arts, and no strings attached



Dame Janet, balancing act for donations

A GROUP of puppeteers who tour the Scottish Highlands and Islands, a cathedral festival in Wales and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art were among 19 arts organisations awarded grants by a new trust yesterday.

Opera singers, ballet dancers, theatres, a book centre and a sculpture workshop will benefit from £2 million provided by the Foundation for Sport and Arts.

The first grants provided by the foundation range from £500,000 towards the modernisation costs of the Theatre Royal in Norwich to £1,500 for the Michael James Music Trust at Wimborne, Dorset, which provides organ scholarships. The grant of £500,000 to the Royal

Leading lights from the world of entertainment have found a cultural use for money diverted from the pools, Richard Ford writes

Academy of Dramatic Art is to help it complete an extension for studios and lecture rooms.

The £10,000 to St David's Cathedral festival in Dyfed is to save the 1992 festival which was in danger of being cancelled because of a lack of sponsorship. An award of £5,000 to the Black Box Puppet Theatre Trust in Argyll will help puppeteers Don and Ivy Smart to take their act to the remotest parts of Scotland.

Welcoming the awards,

Tim Renton, the arts minister, said: "The first list is very exciting. It shows some of the direction in which I hope the foundation is going to move. They recognise the pressing needs of the arts throughout the country, they encourage creativity and they also encourage more people to take part in the arts."

With the amount of private sponsorship for the arts rising from £500,000 a year to £35 million a year during

the past 15 years, Mr Renton said at the awards ceremony in London that it was important that there should be many sources of funding for the arts.

The idea of a foundation was proposed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer last year by the football pools operators after ministers came under pressure to set up a national state lottery. It was launched after Norman Lamont cut pools betting duty by 2.5 per cent, freeing about £20 million a year to be split 60 per cent for sport and 40 per cent for arts organisations.

As well as reflecting the need to restore much of the fabric of many arts buildings, the grants also attempt to

produce a geographical and artistic spread in the type of organisations given cash. The task of producing this delicate balance has fallen upon the singer Dame Janet Baker, the film director Sir Richard Attenborough, the theatre director Richard Eyre, the lyricist Tim Rice, two representatives of football pools companies, and representatives from the Arts Council and the government's Office of Arts and Libraries.

The grants announced yesterday were: Theatre Royal, Norwich (£500,000); Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh (£250,000); St David's Cathedral festival 1992 (£10,000); National Youth Orchestra of Wales (£10,900); Rotherham

Civic Theatre (£200,000); Royal Theatre, Northampton (£10,000); Easy Street, Liverpool (£36,000); Broomhill Trust, Tunbridge Wells (£100,000); Haddo House Choral Society, Aberdeen (£5,000); Michael James Music Trust (£1,500); Rada (£500,000); Scottish Sculpture Workshop, Lumsden (£35,000); English National Ballet (£150,000); Black Box Puppet Company (£5,000); Edinburgh Puppet Company (£18,000); Opera North, Leeds (£250,000); Scottish Book Centre (£10,000); Tron Theatre, Glasgow (£60,000); English Chamber Orchestra and Music Society (£7,500).

Sports grants, page 38

Labour opens campaign on NHS as poll fever mounts

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND RICHARD FORD

THE cabinet will today discuss likely election dates amid signs that Labour is again making political headway on the health service.

The discussion will coincide with a Conservative party political broadcast tonight highlighting the "transformation" of Britain in the Eighties. That upbeat message will be underscored by the launch of a campaigning magazine, 80,000 copies of which will go on sale in newsagents across the country.

Labour's accusations yesterday that the prime minister's first full-length speech on the NHS lent credence to its claims that a future Tory government would privatise the NHS threw ministers on to the defensive. They initially responded by denouncing the latest bout of Opposition "scare-mongering" before suddenly switching tactics. The impression remained that Labour, with a £300,000 national poster campaign, had slowed the Tory advance.

Earlier, Downing Street had taken the unusual step of releasing unpublished material from John Major's speech, in which he promised that no self-governing hospital trust would be privatised.

Senior Tory sources then insisted that they would not allow themselves to be drawn into a slanging match on Labour territory and tried to shift the argument back onto the economy. The Conservatives were heartened by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, who backed up min-

Ivor Crewe, page 16
Letters, page 17



Mermaleid purchase: David Heppell, of the natural history department of the National Museums of Scotland, and Pat MacDonald, an assistant, with their recent acquisition, a mermaleid, or "ningyo", neatly faked

by 19th-century Japanese fishermen (Nigel Hawkes writes). It is made from a wooden core covered in papier maché. Its tail is wrasse skin, the head is moulded around a fish jaw and the forelimbs came

from a lizard. Mr Heppell said that the purchase was important for its value "in the history of zoological ideas and the techniques of taxidermy used to construct it". In 1820, a ningyo made in Japan was

brought to London and was subsequently exhibited by the showman Phineas T. Barnum. Mr Heppell's ningyo can be seen at the Royal Museum of Scotland, in Chambers Street, Edinburgh.

Partners against crime advocated

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

INNER cities could have further riots if the police do not receive more help from government, local authorities, industry and other agencies in tackling underlying causes of crime, Ronald Hadfield, the chief constable of West Midlands, said yesterday.

With investigations into

the recent mob violence in four English cities still underway, Mr Hadfield called for a "genuine, committed and generously funded partnership to confront urban blight."

Factors such as high unemployment, poor housing and the numbers of one-parent families were creating a "feeling of futility" in many urban areas, he said in an address to the international police exhibition and conference in London.

Pointing out that the "partnership approach" could be applied widely in towns and cities, he added: "A failure to act could result in the unacceptable face of civil disorder and violence."

The strong emphasis placed by Mr Hadfield on social and economic factors in fuelling crime will discomfort ministers, in spite of the quiet enthusiasm they are now showing for what some criminologists describe as "social crime prevention". Ministers have claimed that unemployment had little to do with the recent clashes.

● Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, will meet motor manufacturers next week to tell them that they are not doing enough to make cars secure against joyriders. Senior managers from Ford, Vauxhall and Rover, and officials from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders have been called to the Home Office on Monday.

Minimum wage blow for Tories

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ATTACKS by the government on Labour's policy of a statutory minimum wage suffered a setback yesterday when a new survey showed that most employers support the proposal, and do not believe a minimum wage would either push up pay or increase unemployment.

Embarrassed by the findings of the Institute of Personnel Management report, the government put pressure on the institute to present its conclusions in a way which would do least damage to the Tory line against the minimum wage.

The government tried to intervene directly in the report's presentation yesterday, urging the institute to make clear that it did not formally have a policy supporting the minimum wage.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said later: "Having considered the survey which they commissioned, the IPM themselves have made it clear that they do not support a minimum wage."

IPM leaders denied they had been influenced by the government, but Barry Curnow, IPM president, said yesterday of the employment department: "We have a number of conversations all the time with them. We have been talking to them over the last two days."

Fears eased of ageing Britain

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE number of pensioners in Britain is expected to fall in the 1990s for the first decade this century, dispelling the myth of an imminent demographic time bomb, a report published yesterday says.

The report from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry says that the pensioner "bulge" will not affect the economy until the 2020s, when the population over 65 will rise again as the baby boom generation starts to retire. Health and social services will however be affected by a significant rise in the population over 85.

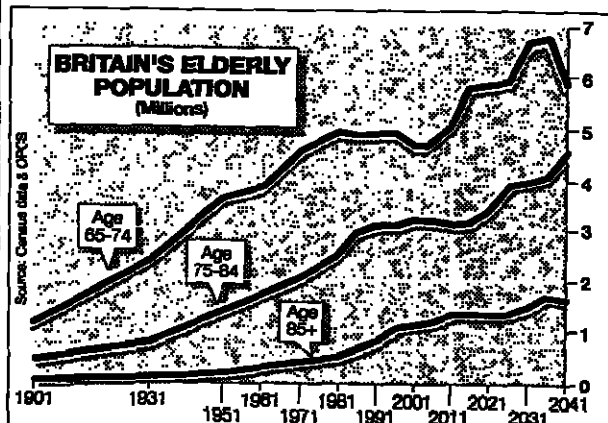
Sixteen per cent of British citizens are now aged 65 or more, compared with 4.7 per cent in 1901, the report says. The proportion will drop slightly over the next 20 years rising to 21.6 per cent of the population in 2036. Depen-

dency ratios — the proportion of the population made up of "non-productive" children and pensioners — stands at 40 per cent in 1991, but is expected to rise by only 1 per cent in the 1990s.

"Undoubtedly there will be economic strains, particularly in the funding of pensions, but there is no real reason to suppose that a modern economy cannot cope with these strains," the association says.

"We hear a lot about the demographic time bomb. But the message from our research is that this may not be so potent a threat to advanced Western societies as some commentators have suggested," William Laing, the report's author, said.

The Challenges of Ageing (ABPI, 12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY; free)



Charity to feed Soviet book hunger

By RACHEL KELLY

BOOK Aid will be launched in London and Moscow next week with plans to send one million books to the Soviet Union.

The charity is appealing to British publishers and the public to donate books to be distributed to libraries throughout the Soviet Union. The scheme has the backing of President Gorbachev, who discussed plans for the charity during the G7 talks in London in July.

More than 22,000 new books donated by publishers including Penguin, Faber and Faber, Hodder and Stoughton, and Oxford

University Press were flown to Moscow on Tuesday.

Aeroflot, in its new capacity as an independent airline, carried the books from Stansted airport for free, and has agreed to donate its services for the next ten flights. The books arrived at the Library of Foreign Literature in Moscow, which will distribute them to 275 provincial centres in Russia and the other republics under the supervision of the library's director, Vyacheslav Ivanov.

Roger Graef, the filmmaker who set up Book Aid under the auspices of his

existing charity, the Signals International Trust, of which he is president, said: "This has already been an extraordinarily powerful response from British publishers."

The Signals Trust was founded a year ago to provide hardware including computers and laser printers to support previously banned writers in the Soviet Union.

"Two years ago I made a film about the Soviet Union which revealed a landscape of cultural oppression," Mr Graef said. "I realised there were no books to read, especially in the provinces.

This is a country where Tolstoy and Dostoevsky are banned. We are trying to fill a most enormous gap."

When Mr Graef saw piles of books abandoned at a country fair in Dorset this summer, he decided to act and contacted Tim Waterstone, chief executive of Waterstone's. Mr Graef said: "Tim agreed to help and called 20 publishers."

The Times has also been supporting the project, and plans are being made for an appeal to readers for books once the first stage of the operation has been successfully completed.

Wildlife survives vanishing rain forest

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

CUTTING down the tropical rain forest may not have such disastrous consequences on wildlife as many have feared.

Animals, birds and fish all survived almost unscathed in a rain forest that was exploited for timber in Sabah, Malaysia, Andrew Johns of Aberdeen University told a meeting at the Royal Society yesterday. In some areas, 70 per cent of the trees had been cut down, but all the vertebrate species present, including rhinos and elephants, had survived, he said.

Dr Johns was reporting results of the society's seven-year study at the Danum Valley Field Centre in Sabah. "This is a quite surprising finding," he said. "The reason may be that even in heavily logged areas, some tree cover survives on slopes, near streams and in other places where access is difficult. Our evidence suggests that if even 10 per cent of the trees are left, it is enough to preserve all the species."

Clive Marsh, of the Sabah Foundation, said that Dr Johns' results could not be applied to all rain forests.

Leading article, page 17
Science and technology, p31

Heads reject Labour claims

Independent school headmasters yesterday challenged Labour party claims that government grants for private schooling were going to "distress the gentlefolk."

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said that the assisted-places scheme, designed to help able children from poor families to attend independent schools, had been an expensive failure, costing taxpayers £67 million a year. He told the annual meeting of the Headmasters' Conference in Cambridge that only 600 children of manual workers were helped each year, about 10 per cent of the total.

David Smith, chairman of the independent schools joint committee assisted places scheme committee, accused Mr Straw of using "outdated social categories", and said that a third of the 30,000 children on the scheme had their full fees paid, as the family income was less than £8,700 a year. More than half were allowed a grant covering half the fees.

Films tax deal

Labour outlined plans yesterday to give British film-makers tax concessions to help to stem the decline in investment, now at its lowest level for 50 years. The party's green paper proposes allowing companies to write off 100 per cent of investments in film production against tax, and the setting up of a European film studio to be sited in Britain to cater for the growth in joint EC productions.

Visitors held

Two Irish sisters and their brother were being held by police last night after Durham prison staff allegedly found them in possession of a toy gun as they were about to visit Martina Anderson, an IRA member serving a life term. Anderson, a former beauty queen, was jailed for conspiring to cause explosions during a seaside bombing campaign on the British mainland in 1986.

Legal aid move

Children and their parents or guardians will be entitled to free legal aid for the first time in cases where the child may be taken into care when the Children Act comes into force next month. Under changes outlined by the Legal Aid Board, care supervision, child assessment and emergency protection order proceedings are given a high priority and legal aid given without a means or merit test.

Death charges

Shaun Gooch, aged 24, of Swindon, was charged yesterday on two counts of causing the deaths of five youngsters by reckless driving. Swindon magistrates ordered that Mr Gooch's full address should not be published. Mr Gooch was remanded in custody for seven days and there was no application for bail. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

CORRECTION

In a leader on 12 September, The Times stated that Graham Mather, the general director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, endorsed John Major's candidature for the Tory leadership. As befits the head of a think-tank with charitable status, he did not. We apologise for the error.

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Airline challenges rules on sale of cut-price tickets

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways yesterday openly challenged international aviation rules by announcing plans to sell cut-price tickets through high street travel agencies and "bring the bucket shops out of the closet".

Under existing regulations, only those airline tickets for which prices have been approved by officials at both ends of the route can be advertised openly for sale.

Millions of passengers have, however, bought tickets at well below the "official" rates through a small number of agencies, known as consolidators or bucket shops, which buy bulk supplies of unsold tickets from airlines and offer them, usually through small advertisements, to the public.

In an effort to get round the rules, the passenger is often not told in advance which airline will be carrying him.

Now British Airways is to make such tickets available to 7,000 travel agents around the country and openly to display them on their computer reservations systems.

BA said: "As this previously clandestine practice has become an established airline marketing strategy, we believe that discounted seats should be offered to a wider market through the regular travel trade."

Almost every airline has "dumped" its unsold tickets at prices well below the official rate through its own favoured bucket shop operators. They gain at least some revenue on

seats that would otherwise remain unsold, and the customer benefits by having access to tickets that are far cheaper than the official advertised fare.

Aviation regulators have outlawed the practice because, they argue, it could lead to large airlines driving out their smaller competitors by deliberately under-cutting them on selected routes and even forcing them out of business.

Now, faced with the growing public awareness of the tickets' availability and BA's blunt challenge to what is largely seen as a discredited and outmoded law, the regulators may be forced to accept the move as a fait accompli.

Only certain flights at certain times will be subject to the low fares, after the airline has established just how many seats it would not be able to sell at the higher, official, rates. The first such fares, available through the BA Link bookings computer, will be on sale from the beginning of next month.

Transatlantic services, which have suffered a sharp decline because of the recession, will be offered first, with return tickets to New York available for between £250 and £270, at least £80 below the cheapest officially approved Apex fare of £350.

If the move proves successful and the regulators turn a blind eye, it may be extended to many other services.

British Airways made clear that because the number of such tickets would be limited to those flights not already booked with passengers paying the full fare, there would be no guarantee that a potential passenger would be able to buy them for a particular destination or a particular flight. The tickets will also have to be bought 14 days in advance and will have a number of other restrictions attached.

The move took the Civil Aviation Authority by surprise. An official said: "Our basic policy is to ensure that all fares are related to cost and are therefore economic. The rules are clear and state that no British airline may carry passengers at fares which have not been approved by us."

"We were not aware of this move by BA and will be seeking to talk to them about it at the earliest opportunity."

The Association of British Travel Agents described the BA move as "the best news possible for the traveller, who will now be able to buy discounted tickets through an approved travel agent rather than having to go through a bucket shop".

Phone line to fight wildlife poisoning

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A FREE telephone line has been set up to help to end the illegal use of pesticides to kill wild birds and animals. Calls will be directed to government inspectors, who will investigate immediately.

The campaign, launched yesterday by Tony Baldry, junior environment minister, is aimed at a small number of farmers and gamekeepers who still use poisoned bait to kill foxes, crows and magpies rather than using approved traps and other legal means of controlling the predators.

Mr Baldry said: "Many pets have fallen sick and died, often in front of their shocked owners, though so far no children have been poisoned. We want to remove this risk

for ever." Birds of prey, including rare golden eagles, red kites and marsh harriers, are the most frequent victims, particularly at springtime. They were involved in 36 of the 95 incidents of pesticide poisonings of birds and mammals recorded by the agriculture ministry in 1990. About 100 domestic dogs and cats were also poisoned.

Mr Baldry urged rambles and country dwellers to telephone 0800 321 600 if they spotted any signs of illegal poisoning bait. The line will be manned from 9am to 5pm daily and an answering machine will take messages outside office hours. Illegal poisoners can be fined up to £5,000 or face a prison term.

BIRDS OF PREY POISONED BY PESTICIDE IN UK (1979-1990)

	Breeding pairs (in 1990 unless otherwise stated)	Number killed
Buzzard	12,000-15,000	271
Golden eagle	424 (1982)	31
Kestrel	30,000-50,000	25
Red kite	10	25
Sparrowhawk	30,000	16
Peregrine	900 (1985)	10
Hen harrier	630	9
Marsh harrier	75 (breeding females)	4
Goshawk	200	1
White-tailed eagle	4-11	1



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

MPs back disabled ex-soldiers

By PETER VICTOR

A GROUP of MPs led by Jack Ashley, Labour member for Stoke-on-Trent, South, is renewing efforts to gain compensation for disabled ex-servicemen who cannot sue because of a law which has been repealed.

After a successful campaign to gain compensation for three Grenadier Guardsmen whose legs were blown off during a training exercise in Canada, Mr Ashley has written to Tom King, the defence secretary, calling on the defence ministry to reconsider its attitude to servicemen injured by negligence before the repeal of Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947.

Before 1986 such servicemen could not sue for compensation. Although Section 10 was repealed that year the provisions of the change in the law were not made retrospective.

Mr Ashley, together with Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Daventry, campaigned for the repeal and in 1987 tabled an amendment providing for retrospective compensation for deserving cases. The defence secretary said legislation could not be retrospective.

The defence ministry said last night that Mr King was in the Far East, and added: "We will not pre-empt Tom King's reply."

Art export ban expected

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

EIGHTEEN old master drawings sold at Christie's in July by Viscount Coke, of Holkham Hall, Norfolk, are expected to be banned from export for six months this week by the trade department.

The Reviewing Committee for the Export of Works of Art has given each one a red star, denoting supreme heritage importance. The move, which will give museums a chance to match the drawings' present valuations, results from heavy lobbying by a disgruntled consortium of museums that tried and failed to buy the drawings before the sale.

The drawings are valued at more than £1 million, including £154,000 for *View of the Tiber Valley* by Poussin, and £143,000 for a delicate drawing of a woman's head by Guido Reni.

When the arts minister, Timothy Renton, approves the committee's recommendations, as is expected, he will set in motion the biggest fund-raising challenge for museums this year.

The collection was amassed by Thomas Coke, later earl of Leicester, during his grand tour of Europe in the 1712, and offered at Christie's this year because of the present Viscount Coke's "revenue problems". Annual upkeep at Holkham Hall amounts to £600,000 a year.

Although the drawings are not the first items to be dispersed from the collection and had been kept in portfolios away from public view, the feeling among heritage lobbyists was that the collection was complete, and should have been kept

as such. After hearing about the prospective auction of 66 drawings — roughly a fifth of the collection — directors of the British Museum, National Galleries of Scotland, Ashmolean in Oxford and Fitzwilliam in Cambridge, jointly raised £1.65 million, which was just above Christie's estimate, and offered it to Viscount Coke.

Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, said yesterday: "We felt our bid wasn't taken as seriously as it should have been." Being what is called a private treaty sale, the offer was tax free. In the event, the drawings fetched £3.26 million.

The committee is expected to continue to place export stops on any further drawings from the collection whose owners apply for export licences.



Under review: a landscape by Pietro da Cortona, which fetched £264,000



Shared grief: children comforting each other yesterday at a demonstration in Swindon, Wiltshire, prompted by a crash in which five young people, aged seven to 19, died on Friday. Dozens of parents and children gathered in Akers Way, scene of the crash.

to protest at what they say is a lack of safety. A police spokesman said: "We recognise the deep feelings the local community has about this desperate tragedy." Meanwhile, an inquest into the deaths was opened and adjourned in Swindon.

Vicar to appeal after losing adultery case

By PAUL WILKINSON

A CHURCH of England parson was yesterday ordered from his parish after being found guilty of adultery with one of his parishioners.

It was the second time in less than a year that the Rev Tom Tyler, aged 52, vicar of Henfield in West Sussex, and a father of four, had been found guilty on the same charge of conduct unbecoming a clerk in holy orders.

Last November, a consistory court found him guilty on five charges of adultery involving Barbara Edwards, aged 32, a parishioner, and his curate's wife, Susan Whitmore, aged 54. But he appealed successfully to the church's court of the arches, which ordered a retrial.

After yesterday's hearing, which dealt only with the allegations involving Mrs Edwards, the vicar's lawyers said that he was very disappointed by the outcome and would be appealing again to the court of the arches. He has 28 days to do so and will remain in his vicarage in Henfield under suspension until the process is exhausted.

The other charges alleging a ten-year affair with Mrs Whitmore were ordered to be left on the file and not to be proceeded with except on the direction of the court.

Passing sentence yesterday, the vice-chancellor of the Chichester Diocese, the Rev Rupert Bursell, QC, said: "I bear in mind and accept your previous high good conduct and I accept that in the past you have been an outstanding parish priest. You yourself said that to commit adultery would be a betrayal of your

orders and certainly a dreadful betrayal of Mrs Edwards."

"I believe that is the worst punishment you can have inflicted on yourself and in all the circumstances I have no alternative other than to pass a sentence of deprivation."

Behind Mr Tyler in the public gallery his wife Tricia, aged 48, was comforted by their oldest son Andrew and daughter Claire, aged 21.

Mrs Edwards buried her head in her husband's shoulder. Later, outside the court, she said that she was glad the case was over but her husband Stephen added: "It is not a victory, everybody loses. Mr Tyler is unsafe; he is an evil and wicked man."

The affair began in the summer of 1988 as the vicar comforted Mrs Edwards after the cot death of her ten-week-old son. She had turned to the church for help but the consistory court hearing the retrial before East Grinstead magistrates, West Sussex, was told how the vicar's comforting kisses on the cheek and protective arm around the shoulder gradually turned to passionate embraces.

They first had sex in September 1988, and Mrs Edwards said that over the following year they had intercourse on at least a dozen occasions at her home in Henfield. She told the four assessors, who sat as a jury, that she felt dirty after the sex, but still felt comforted by Mr Tyler's presence.

He had denied all her claims and his lawyers produced psychiatric evidence to suggest that she could have been mentally ill with depression over her son's death at the time of the alleged affair.

After the hearing the bishop of Chichester, the Right Rev Eric Kemp, said that investigating the truth of the complaints had been of the greatest importance and although the enquiry had brought "a great deal of unwanted and unhappy publicity", bringing it before a court was the only way they could properly investigate and resolve.

The bishop will now have to consider the question of unrobing Mr Tyler, but that will not be made until after any appeal has been lodged and lost.

Kidnap-plot religious fanatics jailed

A YOUNG Muslim couple were in hiding last night, fearing for their lives, after four religious fanatics were jailed for plotting to kidnap them.

The girl, the daughter of a Muslim priest, was kept prisoner in an attic for many months and her lover's brother was murdered after her father disapproved of her affair with a cab driver.

Police said after a Central Criminal Court trial that the pair fear that the priest's disciples will carry out the traditional punishment of beheading because they broke her father's religious code.

The high priest, Abdul Quadir Gilani, Imam of Europe, is now on the run, wanted for questioning about his daughter's imprisonment and the murder of Umar Bilal Farook, aged 19.

Zahira Gilani, aged 21, enraged her father by falling in

love with a man outside his exclusive social circle, Anthony Longden, for the prosecution, said. The court was told that Zahira met Zia Mahmood, aged 26, in their native Pakistan.

When Zahira asked her father whether she could marry Mahmood, the priest locked her in an attic in his home at Walthamstow, east London. Mahmood told the court that he would wait under her window hoping to glimpse

her. "I began passing letters all year under the bathroom window until she was moved to the house next door," he said.

After her escape, the lovers had a Muslim wedding in secret. The priest ordered followers to bring his daughter back. They traced Mahmood and threatened to kill him and his family. In Pakistan, Mahmood's brother was murdered.

Khadem Hussain, aged 41, of Hemel Hempstead, Hert-

fordshire, Syed Shah, 31, of Leyton, east London, Mush-taq Ahmed, 31, of Luton, Bedfordshire, and Shamsu Miah, 31, of Southampton, were each jailed for four years. They were found guilty of conspiracy to kidnap and to do grievous bodily harm. Ghulab Hussain, aged 35, of Stratford, east London, was jailed for two years for threatening to kill the couple. Sabir Hussain, aged 48, brother of the priest, was cleared of threats to kill.

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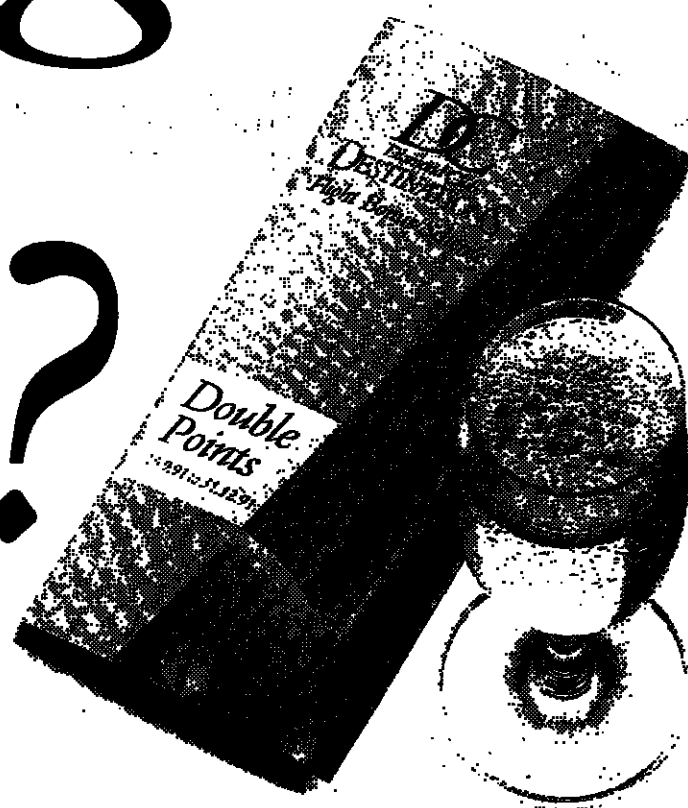
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Scottish independence

SNP sets 1993 as target for breaking away from Britain

By KERRY GILL

THE Scottish National Party has set itself a target of achieving independence in Europe within 15 months.

"Scotland free by '93" was the rallying call given to delegates at the annual conference, which began in Inverness yesterday. The party disclosed that 1,000 people had expressed interest in joining it over the past three days.

The nationalists hope to reap 1.5 million votes in the next general election, which would make the SNP the most popular political party in Scotland. It would be no mean achievement after the 420,000 votes attracted in 1987. Alex Salmond, the party leader, said that on its present performance it could expect more than 600,000 votes.

The surge of support over the past few days was a result of the party political broadcast on Monday featuring the actor Sean Connery, who recently backed independence for Scotland. Mr Salmond said that since the broadcast, the party's telephones had hardly stopped ringing with members of the public promising support.

Mr Salmond, outlining the nationalists' new theme, said: "The central message which will emerge from this conference is the transition of the Scottish National Party from a party of protest to a party of power ready to form the government of an independent Scotland after the coming general election."

As part of that transition, the nationalists have adopted a new logo after almost 20

years. The rounded thistle logo has been given a cubist form that, according to the leadership, implies strength, vision and commitment to the quality of life. One wag said that it would not suit some party activists, asking: "How do you quickly paint a squared-off thistle with aerosol can?"

The nationalists' main problem is translating popular support, now at 19 per cent, into votes for their candidates. They have to bridge the gap between that 19 per cent and the 37 per cent of Scots who back independence in some form. The 37 per cent equates to the 1.5 million votes that they want. In the last election Labour won 1.2 million votes, making it the most popular party in Scotland.

The trouble is that the SNP has been seen as a party of protest for too long, having campaigned against payment of the poll tax and the possibility of nuclear waste dumping in the Highlands. Mr Salmond argued that the party now had people able and willing to form an independent government of Scotland and could capitalise on growing support.

Alex Neil, a party vice-president, said: "We have set a target date for independence, and that date is January 1, 1993. That is the date for the start of the single European market. We cannot afford to go into that with Scotland still a provincial, peripheral part of a disreputable and declining United Kingdom."

Mr Salmond, who was

elected leader last September but whose style of leadership has been criticised as lacklustre, maintained that the nationalists had come to Inverness in a newly confident mood and were ready to fight a general election at any time.

"We are buoyed by rising support in the polls, local government successes and, above all, the highest ever level of support, 37 per cent, for Scottish independence," Mr Salmond said.

"Our target is to persuade those one-and-a-half million Scots who believe in independence to vote for the only party which can, and will, deliver it. Our message to Scots — change now for a better life — is based on the need for real change now as the only way to achieve real improvements in the quality of life of the Scottish people."

Leading article, page 17



Looking sharp: Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, showing off the party's redesigned thistle symbol yesterday to conference delegates

Mackay dashes devolution hopes

By KERRY GILL

AN ATTACK on Labour's proposals for a Scottish assembly and the Scottish National Party's hope for independence within Europe was launched last night by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, in a speech that ended any prospect of devolution being introduced by the Conservatives.

Lord Mackay's robust defence of the union was delivered in Arbroath, the scene of the 14th-century declaration in which Scottish barons asserted their sovereignty. He said that devolution of power to a Scottish assembly or parliament would encourage the forces of disintegration and separatism.

Attempts by the nationalists and the Liberal Democrats to draw parallels with the emerging Baltic states were not only ludicrous but demeaned the fight for democracy in those states, he said. "Those politicians who have sought to make domestic political capital out of the freedom struggles of the Baltic people have underestimated the ability of the Scottish people to think for themselves."

Lord Mackay said the case for the preservation of the union was stronger than ever. The move towards economic and political integration within the European Community made the need for closer links between Scotland and the rest of the United King-

dom a necessity. He said a Scottish assembly would leave the country with a regional status subject to Westminster in all the most important issues: the economy, defence and foreign affairs.

"An independent Scotland would be a mere bystander on the European stage. As part of the United Kingdom, Scotland commands eight votes on the council of ministers... as a small separatist state, Scotland would at most command only three votes, a major reduction in our influence on European events," he said.

Popular support for the SNP had never reached the level necessary for the party to achieve its ambition of independence in spite of some "brief political summers", he said.

Margaret Ewing, the SNP's parliamentary leader, said: "Lord Mackay is a political Rip van Winkle. He has obviously been fast asleep on the Woolsack for the last few years and failed to notice that Scotland and Europe have moved on by leaps and bounds. I have not heard such a load of dreary predictable hogwash for a long time. It is hypocritical drivel for Tories to welcome the independence of the Baltic states and predict a European Community of up to 30 members but then turn round and tell Scots we are not good enough to be one of them."



Reconstruction: Suzanne Rogers on the train yesterday

Sister relives rail trip to murder

By BILL FROST

THE sister of Lynne Rogers, the teenager found strangled in woodland last week, yesterday helped police to stage a reconstruction of the dead girl's last known movements.

Suzanne Rogers, aged 19, left the family home in Catford, southeast London, drove to Hither Green station and caught a train to Charing Cross. She was dressed in clothes similar to those worn by her younger sister on the day she disappeared.

Once at Charing Cross Suzanne made her way to a coffee shop on the concourse where a man smoking small cigars had been seen waiting before meeting a girl resembling Lynne.

She then walked outside the station and stood near St Eleanor's memorial spire, where shortly after 10am on the day she disappeared, Lynne, aged 17, was seen getting into a C registration blue-grey Vauxhall saloon car.

The body of Lynne Rogers was found beneath bracken beside a lane at Rotherfield, East Sussex, 11 days ago. She

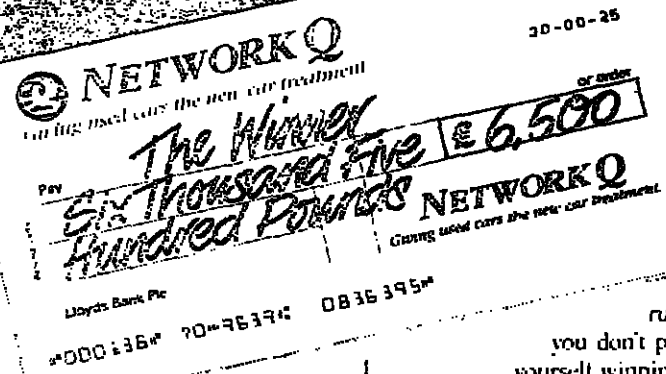
was last seen alive on September 4, the day she travelled from her home to Charing Cross station, to meet a man who had offered her a job.

After yesterday's reconstruction Suzanne Rogers said: "I just hope somebody recognises Lynne, where she was, who she was with, and I hope they get him. I wish he was dead. If anyone has information which may help the police and tell them."

Det Supt. Michael Bennison, who is leading the murder enquiry, said yesterday: "This was obviously a very painful experience for Suzanne. But she is as anxious as us to catch this man. We have had over a thousand calls during the two weeks. We are working on some useful leads."

Mr Bennison described Lynne's killer as a calculating and persistent man. "He phoned the family's home on four occasions. He killed her in cold blood and without a motive. We are very anxious to arrest him — he has killed once, he can always kill again."

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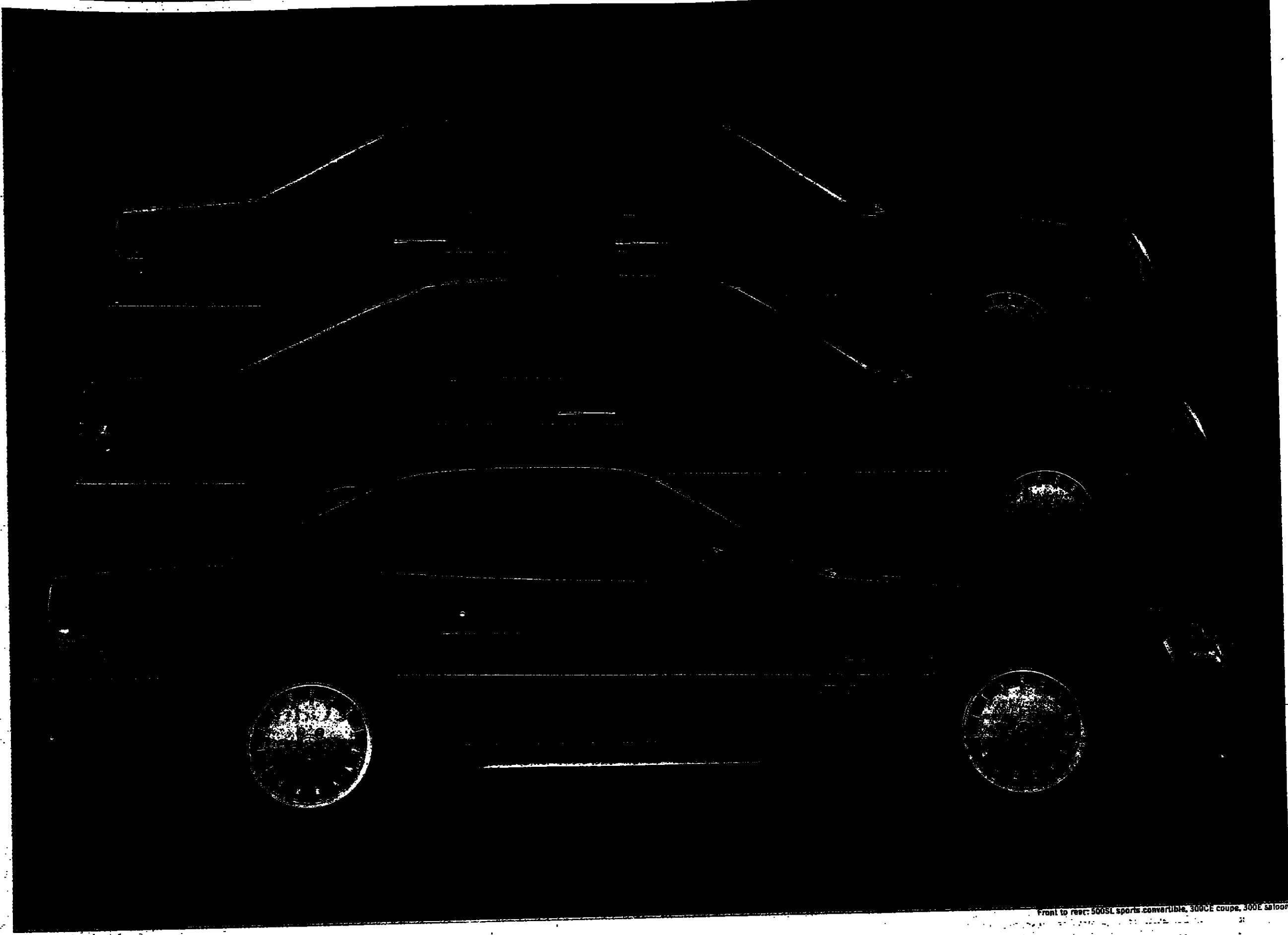
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Front to rear: 500SE sports convertible, 300CE coupe, 300E saloon.

Bruno Sacco is a highly quotable man. He is, for instance, very eloquent on the subject of decorative elements on a car and how desirable it is to avoid them. He speaks of the "sculptural purity" of Mercedes-Benz bodies, and how they should be "functional, unobtrusive, yet express a clear dynamic message." You only have to glance at the three cars here to see what he means.

TIMELESS STYLING IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

Sacco heads the design team that produced all three as well as the 190 series and the august S-class. And what he is expressing explains why Mercedes-Benz cars hold their value so well. By resisting shallow trends - by knowing what to leave out - Mercedes cars achieve a timeless freshness that protects your investment at trade-in time.

Car designers, says Sacco, are "applied futurologists." The trick is to produce shapes that will live long and well in the public consciousness. Look closely at any of today's Mercedes models and you'll see more than sculptural beauty, however. Every feature also has a down-to-earth purpose.

"Good design is the art of knowing what to leave out"

Bruno Sacco, Director of Design, Daimler-Benz AG.



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The closed-loop door handle, for example, is not only elegant and ergonomically satisfying to use - it can be a life-saver because it is designed to accept great pulling force after a catastrophic accident. Notice the deeply ribbed rear

light cluster. This is no stylist's whim, but a meticulously profiled functional shaping that deflects dirt and grime. The vertical channelling on the A-pillar which frames the windscreen ensures that rain or washer fluid is kept off the side windows. The stylish protective side mouldings, apart from adding visual coherence to the overall design, do much to shield your car's bodywork from scrapes and knocks.

ART OF THE NECESSARY

Mercedes design acknowledges both scientific imperatives and a wealth of tradition. At Mercedes-Benz, heritage is always an important ingredient; and for Bruno Sacco, an Italian of the Turin school, so is sensuality. Knowing what to leave out is a vital but elusive skill - as important, in fact, as knowing what to put in.

Survey jolts Tory stance on restoring family values

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE traditional family is a thing of the past according to a survey of parents. Divorce, single parenting and mothers of young children going out to work are all considered socially acceptable, although people still feel it important to uphold some family values such as helping relatives.

The survey, conducted by Gallup for *She* magazine, found that despite the Conservative party's professed aim to restore family values two out of five parents questioned felt that the Labour party cared more about the family. The Conservatives were rated the most caring party by fewer than one in five, while almost a third of parents found it impossible to choose between the parties.

One in three said that family-orientated policies, including child benefit and education, would influence his or her vote at the next general election. People who were intending to vote Conservative were less likely to be swayed by family issues than those supporting opposition parties.

Of the survey's national sample of 757 parents of children under 16, well over half agreed that single parents could bring up children as well as a married couple. Nearly two-fifths said the government should give single parents "all the financial support they need", although a fifth said that single parents had no right to expect the state to look after them.

Two out of three parents said divorce was up to the individuals concerned, and two out of five accepted it as being acceptable if there were sufficient grounds. One in five, however, thought that adultery alone was not a sufficient reason, and one in 20 sup-

ported the idea that divorce should not be possible where young children were involved. Two out of five parents felt that absent fathers should pay maintenance for children only, although almost one in three said that they should help a wife who was unable to support herself.

More parents thought that mothers with pre-school children should, ideally, be going out to work than thought they should be at home. While 45 per cent supported their having full or part-time work, only 37 per cent thought they should not work at all.

Only one in ten thought it very important that a woman should look after the home while a man worked. One in three regarded this as unimportant, and almost as many were undecided.

Support for more traditional family values was reflected in the fact that 96 per cent of those questioned said that it was important to help a relative in need. Being married was regarded as an important family value by 93 per cent, and the same proportion stated that the family should be a base that could always be relied upon for support.

Eighty-seven per cent said that children should be disciplined and well-behaved. 85 per cent felt it was important to make sacrifices for their children, and 76 per cent supported regular contact with all members of the family.

Three out of four parents said that elderly relatives who were unable to look after themselves should be supported by their families. Traditional family values were more important to parents in the North of England and Scotland than to those in the South.



Royal degree: Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the chancellor of Oxford University, in stately progress yesterday with Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan after conferring on him the honorary degree of doctor of civil law by diploma. *Diary*, page 16

Job worries hold back house sales

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

WORRIES over job security remain the main factor preventing a return of confidence to the housing market, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says in a survey published yesterday.

Despite cuts in interest rates, the market is still a long way from the level of activity needed to produce a reasonable turnover, it reports in a cautious assessment. "Job security is the key to reaching equilibrium between properties for sale and potential buyers, and so restoring confidence and price stability to a market ravaged first by high interest rates and now by fear of unemployment."

The survey shows that the market is worst in the South

and Midlands, with further price falls widely reported and the number of repossessions, particularly at the lower end of the market, still high. In the survey, among 84 estate agents in England and Wales for the quarter up to the end of August, two-thirds reported unchanged prices, while nearly one-third said prices had fallen.

The figures coincide with a report on mortgage debt, published by the Association of London Authorities, critical of the response of mortgage lenders to people in arrears and threatened with repossession. The Labour-controlled association says that more than 60,000 Londoners could face repossession as mortgage lenders "grapple in confusion" with arrears of £230 million.

In a sample survey among 10 building societies, the association found a variety of arrears policies, no London guidelines, and a confused response to possible rescue schemes that would enable people to keep their homes, with the local authority or housing association taking over the mortgage.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders rejected the criticism, saying that it did all it could to avoid repossessing homes. It said it had not been consulted on the study but would be happy to talk to the association if it had sensible plans to discuss.

Chope takes toll road south

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTOPHER Chope, the roads minister, will be taking the toll road to Marrakesh on Sunday for the 19th World Road Congress.

Armed with the success of the government's efforts to persuade private sector companies to put money into the design, construction and operation of new roads, Mr Chope hopes to convince his colleagues that Britain has found a way to make the toll road commercially viable.

Mr Chope has a series of ambitious private sector road building schemes up his sleeve, notably the Dartford-Thurrock bridge over the M25, the second Severn crossing and the Birmingham

northern relief road. Septics insist, however, that although toll roads may be appropriate on river crossings, their record on inland roads leaves much to be desired.

Britain's first experiment with toll roads, the turnpikes, was abandoned in 1843 after riots in Wales. More recently, Oslo commuters firebombed toll booths set up to charge motorists for access to the city centre.

No one seriously expects toll roads to win votes, but there is little evidence to suggest that they can make money either. A worldwide survey of toll roads carried out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development in 1987 failed to find one that was viable on toll income alone.

Environmental campaigners point out that toll barriers and their ancillary services take up large amounts of land, and that it may be necessary to avoid building toll booths near urban areas because of the congestion they cause.

Mr Chope is confident that Britain has found solutions to these difficulties. Many observers suspect, however, that it would be prudent to wait until such solutions have been tried before announcing an idea as one whose time has come to an international audience convinced that its time is past.

Worker lost out in job 'lottery'

A scrap metal worker lost his job in a redundancy "lottery", an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Dale Robinson, aged 35, of Wolverhampton, was told by Cable and Metals International that it had to lay people off and that his name was one of three chosen from a hat.

Nicholas Chestney, consultant to the Wolverhampton company, said that it had been an off-the-cuff remark not meant to be taken seriously. Mr Robinson had been chosen because he was "inflexible and belligerent".

The tribunal decided, however, that Mr Robinson had been dismissed unfairly. Bernard Owen, the chairman, said: "We have not been shown a scrap of evidence to prove that Mr Robinson was inefficient, inflexible, uncooperative or belligerent." Mr Robinson was paid undisclosed compensation.

Escaper jailed

An escaped prisoner who threw slates at police during a five-hour siege at a house in Chester was jailed for five years by Mold crown court. Warren Patrick Edwards had escaped from a police vehicle as he was being returned to prison from court.

Vehicle attack

Seven agriculture ministry vehicles had their brake pipes cut and paint stripper splashed on them in Truro, Cornwall. Two weeks ago animal rights activists protested outside the ministry's office in the town about badger killings.

Suicide enquiry

An enquiry was ordered by the Irish justice minister into the suicide in a Dublin police cell of a man aged 24 who had been arrested for being drunk in charge of a stolen bicycle.

Indian legacy

Christopher Robinson, a businessman, of Rugeley, Staffordshire, who died in March, has left £390,000 to two Caribbean Indian tribes.

Steam trips

The Flying Scotsman locomotive will be running trips from Cambridge to King's Lynn during an anniversary weekend next month.

	% of parents who agree
Single parents can bring up their children as well as a married couple	57
The government should give single parents all the financial support they need	38
Single parenthood is mostly the result of divorce or separation	25
Single parents should not expect the state to look after them	20
The majority of single parents are unmarried teenage girls	19
Single parents are more likely to have delinquent children	12
Single parents are to blame for the breakdown of society	2

Source: Gallup. Sample: 757 parents of children under 16

Reward offered in murder hunt

By PETER VICTOR

THE family of a woman who was bludgeoned to death two weeks ago while working at an antiques shop in central London offered a reward of £10,000 yesterday for information leading to the conviction of her murderer. Adrienne Aitken, daughter of the victim, Lady Cross, said that her family was offering the reward because "out there is someone who can help us to solve this dreadful crime". Lady Cross, aged 73, wife of

Sir Kenneth Cross, a retired air chief marshal, was murdered at the shop in Piccadilly after a violent struggle in which she was battered with a heavy metal object, police said. Mrs Aitken said: "My father and I feel we must do everything we can to help the police in this matter."

Lady Cross was found slumped on the floor by Sir Kenneth, aged 79, and the police. He had arrived to meet his wife for lunch but could get no answer when he rang the bell. She was so badly injured

she died a few hours later in hospital without being able to say anything about the attack.

Det Supt Ken Woodward described Lady Cross's struggle against her attacker as heroic. Nothing was stolen from the shop, which specialises in 18th-century furniture. Police are, however, trying to trace an oval black onyx Victorian locket which Lady Cross was wearing before the attack. The locket, inset with pearls and diamonds, contained a photograph of her father as a youth.

Greenpeace study

Count of the dolphin noses starts

Michael McCarthy joins a team of researchers and scientists collecting statistics on wild animals and sails into some sentimentality

EVEN for trained scientists, dispassionate observation seems to come very hard when the dolphins emerge from the waters of Cardigan Bay.

Sue Mayer, head of science for Greenpeace, is diligently looking through her telephoto lens for identifying marks on dorsal fins, but underneath the camera there is a delighted smile. The environmental pressure group is carrying out an ambitious survey of the resident dolphin population off the central Welsh coast but when *The Times* joined one of the research trips this week the statistical seriousness of the exercise was equalled by the emotion engendered.

It is not sentimentality, even though when our boat came across the group of five, rising and falling through the waves, one was a calf born this year, gliding along at its mother's shoulder. It is not simply excitement, though the thrill of suddenly seeing beautiful wild animals at close hand is part of it. It is more a sense

of wonder, that must be one of civilisation's oldest recorded emotions: dolphins decorated the walls of the palace at Knossos, in the Crete of the Minotaur. Now they figure on an advertisement for a steak bar in New Quay, Dyfed. Different social framework, maybe: same feeling.

Why it should be is a mystery, but the feeling was definitely there when the dolphins appeared in the waters off the missile range at Aberporth, relaxed and unconcerned at our presence, coming close in to look at us, and Dr Mayer and her colleagues set about their observations.

Greenpeace wants to establish just what is the population of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in Cardigan Bay: only then will it be possible to say if it is expanding, declining or affected by the many threats now facing dolphins and porpoises, in Britain as elsewhere in the world, from industrial and sewage pollution to entanglement in high-technol-



Census: Mayer, left, and Holly Arnold in Cardigan Bay

ogy fishing gear. The group of animals is one of two resident populations around the British coast, the other being in the Moray Firth.

The Welsh dolphins, an increasing tourist attraction in the small seaside resorts like New Quay and Aberporth, have long been popularly thought of as a family group of seven or eight. However, the Greenpeace survey, this year and last, has now recorded 70 distinct animals. That has been done by painstaking identification through marks on the dorsal fins, birth marks or fighting scars.

This week scientists immediately recognised the mother and calf from a white mark on the leading edge of

the mother's dorsal fin, and identified a juvenile with a pale grey fin with black edging. Now she must peer at the photographs of the other two adults in the party to see if they match animals seen before.

Dr Mayer said: "Some communities of American bottlenose dolphins, in Florida and California, have been studied for 20 years. But no one has ever done detailed work on British populations. We need a detailed picture if we are to conserve them."

Then she slipped into unscientific mode, smiling as the dolphins effortlessly curved through the waves alongside us. "Amazing animals," she said.

1 HITCHCOCK.

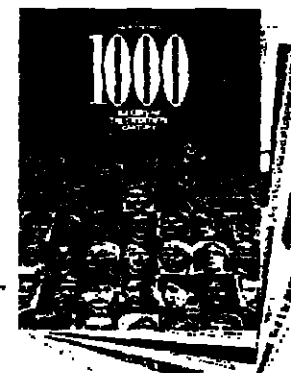
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

PREPARE TO MEET THY MAKERS.

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Opposition leader says Aquino guilty of treason

From Abby Tan in Manila

JUAN Ponce Enrile, an opposition senator, yesterday called for President Aquino's impeachment on the grounds that she had committed treason in deciding to recall the notice to quit served on the United States over military bases for which the lease agreement has expired.

Mr Ponce Enrile said Mrs Aquino, instead of calling for a referendum to overturn the landmark decision, should gracefully accept defeat on the base treaty that the senate rejected on Monday. Many senators who had voted the treaty down denounced her government's recall yesterday of a termination notice given to America a year ago telling it to leave the bases by September 16, the date the old agreement expired.

The government withdrew the notice the day after the

agreement expired, so allowing American forces to stay for at least another year. "This is downright treacherous," Mr Ponce Enrile said at a press conference, pointing out that there was no provision in the constitution allowing America to stay because there was no treaty.

Mr Ponce Enrile, who once served briefly as Mrs Aquino's defence minister after helping to put her in power in the 1986 military revolt, has become her most bitter critic since being ousted out of her government. He was among the 12 senators who voted against the base treaty. He was charged for complicity in a 1989 coup attempt and the case is still pending.

Claiming that Mrs Aquino had violated the constitution in allowing American troops to remain, Mr Ponce Enrile asked: "Does she adhere to the provision of the constitution? Or is she deliberately violating the constitution and will that not render her liable for impeachment by congress?"

Impeachment of the president must be initiated by the lower house of the Philippines congress. So far only one other congressman, from a minority opposition party, has called for her impeachment. The lower house is dominated by the ruling Philippine Democratic party, which is controlled by Jose Cojuangco, Mrs Aquino's younger brother.

While impeachment proceedings are, therefore, unlikely to prosper, the attack against the president is yet another controversy to add to a long series of mishaps in her handling of the bases treaty.

● **Truce approved:** Renato de Villa, the Philippines defence chief, yesterday approved a truce with communist guerrillas in selected parts of the country in response to a nationwide unilateral ceasefire earlier announced by the rebels.

Mr de Villa told reporters he had authorised provincial battalion commanders to declare a truce in areas where "the initiative for a ceasefire [between government forces and the rebel New People's Army] comes from local residents themselves". The guerrillas, who are fighting for a marxist state and the removal of American military forces from the country, announced their unilateral ceasefire last Thursday, just before the Philippines senate voted to reject the new military bases treaty with America.

Mr de Villa, in a directive to General Lisandro Abadia, the armed forces chief, said provincial battalion commanders in selected areas could declare a ten-day ceasefire "which may be extended not more than twice for another 10 days each". The reason why Mr de Villa, who last week dismissed the rebel ceasefire as a propaganda stunt, approved the limited truce was not clear.

He said local ceasefires had more chance of succeeding than a nationwide truce because conditions varied from one area to another. Testifying yesterday before the senate defence committee, he accused communist leaders of failing to enforce their own ceasefire. (Reuters)

Shuttle lands

Cape Canaveral - The space shuttle Discovery landed in darkness in California after being diverted from its Florida runway because of bad weather. Yesterday's was only the fifth night landing in 43 shuttle flights. Discovery on Sunday launched the world's biggest environmental research satellite. (Reuters)

Kissing banned

Peking - Peking university students have only weeks left to hug, kiss and hold hands on campus. From October 5, they are to be banned as "behaviour that corrupts public morals". Bottle-smashing, booing and whistling, all ways of showing dissent, are also to be banned, as are unauthorised gatherings. (Reuters)

Defender of Brazil rain forest shot

From Mac Margolis in Rio de Janeiro

AN AIDE to Chico Mendes, the Brazilian trade union leader and ecologist who was killed in December 1988, was badly wounded in a murder attempt on Tuesday night. Guimercindo Rodrigues, an agronomist and defender of the rubber-tappers championed by Mendes, was shot three times in the face and stomach by an unknown assailant, who fled into the night. Senhor Rodrigues was about to enter the environmental institute in Rio Branco, the capital of Acre state in the western Amazon region, when two men and a woman tried to force him into a car.

Police said they had no suspects, but local news reports linked the attempt to the gunmen hired by the region's landowners. Senhor Rodrigues was taken to hospital and was in a reported condition. Heavily armed troops cordoned off the emergency ward.

The attack came as no surprise to local residents. Ever since Mendes was shot by a rancher, Senhor Rodrigues and other leaders of the rubber-tappers have received numerous death threats. Known for his ardent defence of the rubber-tappers of the Amazon, Senhor Rodrigues, aged 32, had developed the habit of carrying a gun and avoiding walking alone after his name appeared on the ranchers' "death list".

In recent years, the rubber-tappers, who make a living gathering rubber latex and Brazil nuts, earned the hostility of the region's ranchers for blocking cattlemen from clearing forests to make pastures and farms. The murder of Mendes led to protests around the world by ecologists and human rights groups outraged by the destruction of the Amazon rain forest and the lack of justice in the Brazilian backlands.

In December a rancher and his son were found guilty of the Mendes murder and sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment. But the threats to his successors continued.

Leading article, page 17

Women share award for improving African life

By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

WANGARI Maathai, who founded Kenya's Green Belt Movement, is probably the only environmentalist in the world who has been whipped for campaigning in defence of nature.

From her home in the suburbs of Nairobi she carried on a sort of naturalist's guerrilla war against a government which regards as subversive anything even remotely critical of its policy.

"People will listen to us," Professor Maathai said, "and that makes the government afraid of us. The police try to intimidate us by preventing the planting of trees in the countryside, and women get so scared they abandon the movement." The legacy of Professor Maathai can be seen all over her native Kenya in the ten million trees which have been planted by her movement.

Today her efforts at greening Kenya are rewarded by the joint award of the 1991 Africa Prize for leadership for the sustainable end of hunger, which she shares with Maryam Babangida, wife of the Nigerian president. The awards mark the first time the \$50,000 (£28,700) prize has been shared by two women.

Professor Maathai's share will be used to set up an endowment to fund cash to her movement. Some aid comes from the United Nations, The Netherlands and Denmark, but Britain gives nothing, apparently for fear



African champions: Professor Maathai of Kenya, left, and Maryam Babangida of Nigeria, who will today share the Africa Prize for leading programmes intended to combat hunger

of giving any offence to President Moi of Kenya.

Mrs Babangida wins the prize for her leadership of Nigeria's Better Life Programme for rural women. The programme is aimed at breaking the cycle of hunger, poverty, ignorance and disease. She has also been a prime mover behind the es-

tablishment of working parties on rural women in various United Nations bodies.

Professor Maathai said the award, for which she had previously been nominated without success, came as a surprise. It is, however, only a small compensation for continuous harassment by the government and her

involuntary divorce from her husband by a judge who, she says, was corrupt or incompetent. Because she has no husband, the government can regard her as immoral.

Seeing the need for urgent action to combat environmental degradation in Kenya, Professor Maathai started the Green Belt Move-

ment in 1977. It recruited about 50,000 women to plant seedlings and distribute and care for trees to help to limit soil erosion and loss of firewood. The planting of trees remains a main source of income for many, and the Green Belt Movement has introduced nutrition and health programmes.

Chinese head of state taken ill

From Catherine Sampson in Peking

LI PENG, the prime minister, disclosed yesterday that Yang Shangkun, aged 84, the president, had been taken to hospital on Tuesday and had missed a state welcome for a foreign visitor.

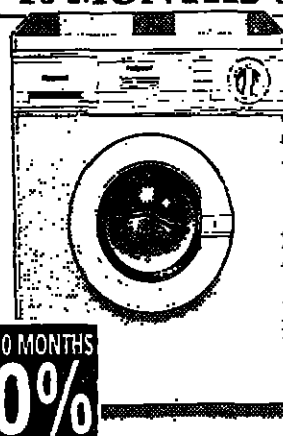
The president's illness highlights the fact that, despite the Communist party's robust rhetoric, the men in charge of the country are all elderly. The morale of China's leadership, shaken by the collapse of Soviet communism, will be further weakened by this reminder of mortality.

Mr Yang's post as president is mainly ceremonial, but he has day-to-day control of the army and is widely expected to assume paramount power on the death of Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader. Mr Yang, in spite of his age, is considered sprightly in comparison with Mr Deng, who is aged 87.

His indisposition prevented him from attending a welcoming ceremony for Quett Masire, the president of Botswana. Mr Li deputised for him and told the Botswana president that Mr Yang had been taken to hospital because he had a cold. The foreign ministry, contacted later, would say only that the president had a minor ailment. A spokesman declined to confirm that he was in hospital.

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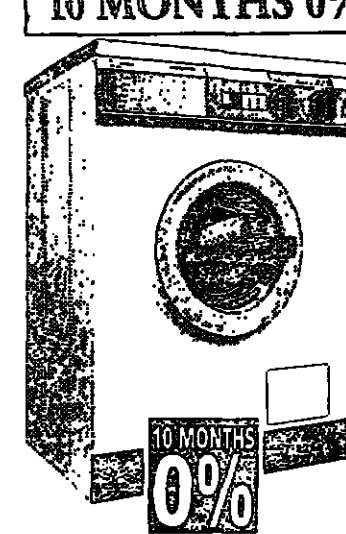
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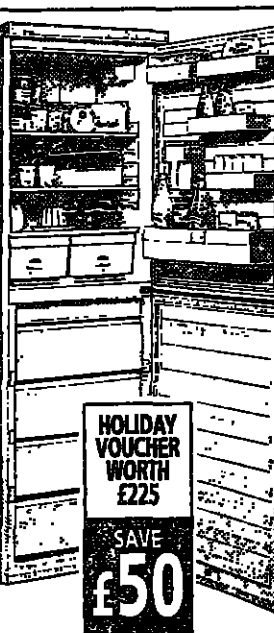
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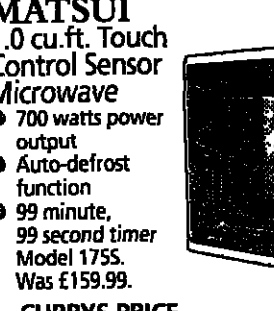
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Generals fear buffer troops would rob Serbia of its conquests



Milosevic said he would defend Serbs everywhere

THE HARDLINE generals of Belgrade, scenting victory in Croatia, will be watching with unease today as the Western European Union considers deploying a buffer force in Yugoslavia. It has become clear that the Yugoslav army is now pressing for the total surrender of the Croats; no ceasefire or peace conference can stop the generals, who believe that only military victory will bring a political solution.

Only the WEU's deliberations seriously affect these calculations, for the peacekeeping force would have to be deployed along the old, legally binding borders, not the Serbian frontier carved out by military conquest this summer. The mere presence of foreign troops would challenge the army's hegemony and dilute its power in occupied Croatia. But if the European union does not act soon, the army will be free to use every means it can to crush the Croatian national

Belgrade's hardline generals, who once talked of defending ethnic Serbs, have now switched to attaining the total subjugation of Croatia, writes Roger Boyes, East Europe correspondent

guard. That is the uncomfortable reality facing Lord Carrington as he seeks to persuade the federal army to return to barracks.

The army has been transformed in a few short months from an army committed to Yugoslav unity, to an army serving the Serbian cause. Even this aim has been refined. Three weeks ago the army sought to secure the notionally threatened Serbian enclaves in Croatia and thus to demarcate the future frontiers of a greater Serbia. Now it is fighting for the total subjugation of Croatia.

General Veljko Kadijevic, the ailing defence minister, is clinging to the idea that has dominated his life:

that the army has the constitutional mission to save Yugoslavia. After the army's humiliating defeat by the Slovene resistance in June, this ideal was modified but not abandoned. Yugoslavia must be rescued, he believes, by the disarming of the Croatian national guard and by a change of heart in Zagreb.

But the driving force of the army campaign is a group of Serbian generals who have discarded the concept of Yugoslavia in favour of a "greater Serbia". Professor Anton Bebler, an adviser to the Slovene leadership, has analysed the officer corps which should, according to the constitution, be in proportion to the

country's ethnic composition. In fact, 70 per cent of the army's generals are either Serbs from Serbia, Serbs from enclaves elsewhere, or Serbs who give their nationality as "Yugoslav" or "Montenegrin". Over 80 per cent of colonels are from these groups, and 70 per cent of lieutenant-colonels.

There are 15 to 20 generals, identified by Professor Bebler as protégés of Admiral Branko Mamula, the former defence minister, who are Serbs from Croatia and Bosnia whose families suffered at the hands of the Croatian Ustashi during the war. Their influence now stretches deep into the political administration — the communist political officers — and military intelligence. They apparently take orders from the chief of staff, General Blagoje Adzic, who lost more than 40 of his relatives to the Ustashi.

The collapse of communist rule left the political officer corps only

with their Serbian nationalism. After the defeat in Slovenia, it was also clear that there was no future in a multinational army. Albanians, Croats and Slovenes deserted in droves and continue to do so.

Croatia, Slovenia and Macedonia have all refused to send recruits to the army and Bosnia insists that reservists should not be deployed outside Bosnia. The army rank and file is therefore also dominated by the Serbs.

Reassuring the demoralised army after the debacle in Slovenia, General Adzic promised on Belgrade television that "we will establish control and carry things through to the end". Since the speech coincided with a statement by Slobodan Milosevic, the president of Serbia, that Serbia would defend Serbs everywhere, it was plain that "the end" meant war against Croatia, not a new assault on Slovenia, where there is no Serb minority.

A chronology of ceasefires
June 28: Federal government unilaterally announces a ceasefire at 3 pm in Slovenia.
June 29: Ceasefire holds in Slovenia, but fighting erupts between Serbs, Croats and the Serbian-led army in Croatia.

August 7: Ceasefire in Croatia is declared by the eight-member state presidency.

August 21: Collective state presidency and presidents of the six republics work out a four-point ceasefire.

September 2: Yugoslav republics including Serbia agree to a European Community-sponsored ceasefire.

September 9: EC says it has deployed ceasefire monitors in Croatia war zone.

September 17: Leaders of Croatia, Serbia and the Yugoslav army sign a ceasefire deal with EC peace envoy Lord Carrington.

September 18: Noon ceasefire shattered in Croatia.

Zagreb lives on its nerves amid hail of rumour and gunfire

FROM JOHN FULLERTON IN ZAGREB

MARTIAL music and syrupy patriotic songs gush from the radios, punctuated by gunfire. Red-eyed from lack of sleep, residents of the Croatian capital return once more to bomb shelters as the air-raid sirens sound just 15 minutes before the noon start of an EC-brokered ceasefire.

Waiters, office workers, housewives with shopping bags and students huddle in their basements and underground garages, crowding around transistor radios for news. Six young women from a Soviet dance troupe — who perform topless in a hotel nightclub — quietly get on with their knitting in one shelter.

"We are not all that frightened," says Olga, aged 23, from Kiev.

After a night of sporadic shooting in and around the city, rumours are rife: the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav army is about to attack Zagreb with scores of helicopter gunships; planes dropped cluster bombs at night.

The frequent radio news bulletins are read quickly, like weather reports. They are almost impossible to verify. "This is the last chance for Croatia and Yugoslavia to avoid total war," the radio reports Croatian leaders as saying in a statement. As it read out, a single burst of

automatic gunfire echoes across the city.

Journalists touring the deserted streets find little visible damage from overnight exchanges of gunfire in and around two army camps besieged by Croat fighters. One school's upper floors have been hit by what appear to have been stray rounds from a heavy machinegun.

The worst damage is at the army headquarters in the city. The walls are spattered with bullet holes, and many windows have been shattered by gunfire. Inside, the deputy commander of the fifth army district — incorporating Zagreb and western Croatia — serves coffee to his visitors.

General Andrija Raseta, grey-haired and dressed in crisply ironed fatigues, gives the army's version of the night battle. "It was a co-ordinated attack against our bases by Croatian national guards and police," he says. "The aim was to put our backs to the wall."

He knows of only one military casualty, Sergeant Josip Segovic, who he said died from loss of blood when Croats allegedly fired on the ambulance brought in to take him to hospital. "We only return fire," General Raseta claims.

Another casualty was a Danish member of the European Community mission in Zagreb. General Raseta says he was shot in the leg on the steps of the headquarters and had to crawl to safety. Croats blame General Raseta's soldiers for the violence.

Just before noon, General Raseta — who has been trapped in his headquarters for two days — says he has been assured by the Croatian authorities that all shooting would cease. "But I know of two places — Gospić and Varazdin — where our troops are still under attack," he says. Like everything else here, this is difficult to confirm.

But by 1pm (1100 GMT), shooting is continuous, and this time it is coming from central Zagreb. Bullets whizz across a central square, just outside the railway station and main post office. Tires screaming, motorists try to speed to safety.

Pedestrians, emerging from their shelters after the all-clear, throw themselves flat on the pavement. The war of nerves goes on. (Reuters)

Bernard Levin, page 16
Diary, page 16

Georgians turn to repentant sinner for their salvation

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

AS SUPPORTERS of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the Georgian president, desert him after growing charges of autocratic rule, the members of the once docile parliament are turning to Tengiz Sigua, the former prime minister of the republic.

In the half-comic, half-tragic political turmoil in the young republic, Mr Sigua has begun to bare the sins of the government, that he once served and in so doing is becoming an important power broker. Mr Gamsakhurdia, who was elected Georgian leader in May with 86 per cent of the vote, on the other hand is increasingly looking alienated.

Mr Sigua is well aware that the turmoil could move into a new phase if today's session of parliament tries to force the president to compromise with the opposition — two of whose leaders have just been arrested — or strips him of some of his draconian presidential power. Mr Sigua, a 56-year-old engineering professor, is currently under the protection of Georgia's national guard at its temporary base — a former resort of the Soviet Communist youth movement outside Tbilisi.

The bulk of the national guard — a force which claims to have 630 Soviet army-trained officers and an undisclosed number of troops — has slipped out of the Georgian president's control after his move, under pressure from the organisers of last month's putsch in Moscow, to disband the force which he had created in January.

Mr Sigua, sacked shortly before the coup, disclaims any ambitions to take over as the republic's new leader, even on a temporary basis. "Georgia may be short of food and industrial products after the terrible mistakes that have been made economically in agricultural policies, but it has no shortage of talented potential leaders," he said.

In spite of Mr Sigua's modesty, few revelations have been so damaging for the reputation of Mr Gamsakhurdia, who was triumphantly elected on a wave of nationalism, as the allegations made by Mr Sigua of what he knew about the government's behaviour during and before the August 19 putsch. Mr Sigua is convinced that senior Georgian officials had paid a flying visit to Moscow on the eve of the coup on August 18 and consulted the coup conspirators.

The former prime minister maintains that on the pre-

vious evening, while he was in the government building clearing his desk, he came across the two officials in question holding a conspiratorial meeting with most of the senior officers of the Georgian KGB. All this, Mr Sigua argues, would explain the indecent haste with which the Georgian government promised the Kremlin conspirators that the national guard would be merged with the republican police, or in effect disbanded.

The commander of the Georgian guards, Tengiz Kentovani, refused to obey and took his men to a new base outside Tbilisi. According to Mr Sigua, officials of Moscow's defence ministry threatened to annihilate the recalcitrant guardsmen "in 15 or 20 minutes" — which could only mean bombing their base.

Talking to the young guardsmen, brandishing sheath knives to battered Kalashnikovs and who are guarding Mr Sigua, one gets an impression of the speed with which the Georgian president's popularity has fallen. As Mr Sigua bides his time, the men are drilling, while supporters and opponents of the president hold furious arguments in the central avenue of Tbilisi.

Leading article, page 17



Back in harness: Eduard Shevardnadze finds a new role in reshaping Soviet foreign policy



Time of anxiety: Croats wait for the all-clear in a Zagreb shelter where they sought refuge after an air-raid warning just before yesterday's ceasefire deadline

Russian parliament meets to make crucial decisions

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE distinctive white marble Russian parliament building, the focus of resistance during last month's coup, was again a hive of activity yesterday as deputies, government ministers and republican leaders gathered to prepare for the new session opening today.

But Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation and hero of the resistance, who was to deliver the keynote speech, was mysteriously cancelling meetings amid reports that he had been taken ill. The nature of his indisposition was not entirely clear, although his secretary was reported to have said that he was suffering from a minor heart complaint and had taken a day off work.

Mr Yeltsin is known to suffer from a heart ailment, has back trouble and is reportedly prone to mild depression. Like many Soviet politicians this summer, he has not had

time for the month-long break Russians rely on to rebuild their strength for the winter. In the past, however, he has shown a Gorbachev-like facility for ducking awkward political assignments and, even after his glorious summer, the Russian parliament as an institution is itself still not in particularly good health.

Before the summer recess the parliament was unable to agree on the election of a new chairman and lurched from draft measure to draft measure, achieving very little. The autumn session is crucial because it should show whether, in the more propitious post-coup circumstances, Russia is capable of functioning as a democratic state or is still a sickly creature of the defunct Soviet Union.

On its provisional agenda, which must be approved today, are Mr Yeltsin's policy statement, a report on food

supplies throughout the republic and a report on the state of the budget for the first nine months of the year. The parliament is also to discuss the prospects for the new union treaty — now undergoing thorough revision — Russian representation in the new national parliament, to be made up of delegated members of republican parliaments, and a progress report on the republic's new constitution.

● **Silayev's move:** Ivan Silayev, the Russian prime minister, has decided to move permanently to the central economic administration and resign his post in the Russian Federation.

Last week Mr Silayev said he would leave the centre's four-man interim economic committee after accusations that, as Russian prime minister, he was neglecting the interests of the other republics.

British officials said a force would also need an "international mandate" from a body such as the European security conference, the CSCE, and that deploying troops would have to contribute towards a lasting solution of conflicts which date back to the Middle Ages. One British official, asked what were the chances of these conditions being met, replied: "Not high."

Whitehall sources emphasise the practical problems any military force would encounter. Serbs and Croats are intermingled in many areas to such an extent that even after several weeks of fighting no simple front line has developed between them. EC officials closely involved in Yugoslav mediation are also doubtful about armed intervention. "I do not see the basis on which we could intervene militarily or the political will to do it," said one official. ● **Bosnia:** Border disputes be-

Britain adopts tough line on EC peace force

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN THE HAGUE

BRITAIN will not send soldiers to Yugoslavia in the near future and European governments are unlikely to dispatch peacekeeping troops when they meet here today, the prime minister said yesterday.

John Major was speaking after a meeting with Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, and Hans van den Broek, the foreign minister. Mr Major refused to predict the outcome of today's meeting but said: "I don't see any immediate likelihood of sending a force."

Mr van den Broek, as chairman of the EC's foreign ministers, leads the community's beleaguered diplomacy in Yugoslavia. Today he will hear Lord Carrington's report on the ceasefire agreement secured this week.

Mr van den Broek will then chair a meeting of EC foreign ministers, to be followed by a meeting of the nine EC and Nato countries which form the Western European Union (WEU), a loose defence grouping which would organise and deploy any ceasefire force.

The Dutch government continued to assert yesterday that a lightly armed force of about 5,000 soldiers could help to maintain any ceasefire which can be made to stick. Other estimates discussed in the WEU have assumed that at least 30,000 soldiers would be needed. However, the Dutch and all other governments insist that all Yugoslav parties would have to agree to invite such a force, and there would first have to be a durable ceasefire.

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tween the Yugoslav republics need to be settled by international arbitration, President Mitterrand said here yesterday after an unexpectedly fruitful meeting with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor (Ian Murray writes).

Herr Kohl made no mention of the controversial German campaign to recognise Croatian independence. In return, Mitterrand showed he was ready to see the map of Yugoslavia redrawn, with minority rights protected. At a press briefing they emphasised that Yugoslavia could no longer be held together by force.

Afghan rebels for Moscow

Moscow — For the first time since fighting began in Afghanistan, leaders of the mujahedin guerrillas fighting the Kabul government are to come to the Soviet capital to discuss ways to implement the Soviet-American agreement on a peace settlement (Michael Binyon writes).

Moscow is to propose regional ceasefires where fighting is fiercest and will urge the release of up to 100 Soviet prisoners the mujahedin still hold as pawns in a power struggle between factions.

Nikolai Kozyrev, the ambassador at large who led the Geneva negotiations that resulted in the Soviet troop withdrawal, said the invitation to Moscow went out last week.

● **Maradona fined**
Naples — A Naples court has convicted Diego Maradona, the Argentine football star, on charges of possession of cocaine and gave him a 14-month suspended jail sentence. He was also fined 4 million lire (£1,800). He has remained in Argentina since he returned there in disgrace last April. (Reuters)

● **Pope's aide weds**
Rome — Monsignor Wolfgang Berka, aged 36, considered the second most senior official in the Vatican and privy since 1988 to some of the Pope's most secret letters, has resigned to marry a German woman he met in Brazil in 1987. The Vatican said it was highly unlikely that he would break the Pope's confidence.

Reforms heal Gorbachev's rift with old ally

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

EDUARD Shevardnadze remains by far the most influential figure in Soviet foreign policy. He sees President Gorbachev almost daily and is playing a key role in planning under way on shedding the Soviet Union's superpower status.

"Mr Shevardnadze meets Mr Gorbachev often on an individual basis and in groups," Pavel Paleshenko, a senior adviser on the new presidential staff, said. "They were always very close in their thinking. Now they are working on the changes in foreign policy."

Mr Paleshenko, a former arms control expert who has been in the public eye for some time as an interpreter for both men at summits, said that Mr Shevardnadze now enjoyed good personal relations with Mr Gorbachev. Some aftertaste remained of his bitterness at

feeling politically abandoned last winter [when he was forced to resign as foreign minister]. However, the two men were now working on a post-imperial policy to reduce Soviet commitments overseas, concentrate on improving relations with neighbours and lighten the burden of "imperial overstretch".

They recognised that the Soviet economy could not afford the high military spending of a world superpower role. Shedding this would be painful, Mr Paleshenko said. Many people had become attached to superpower status.

The country now had to pull in its horns. This meant cutting the foreign ministry by up to 50 per cent, reducing Soviet involvement in distant countries such as Australia and Argentina, possibly closing many embassies in Africa and concen-

trating on ties with Eastern Europe, the Baltic states, China, Japan and countries where Soviet interests lay.

"The reorganisation may be painful," he admitted. Conservatives still resented the loss of empire, but the power of the army, the KGB and the party to delay change had been broken.

Hungary and Czechoslovakia were ready to make a fresh start, and would realise that their markets lay more in Russia than in the West, though some countries might turn their backs for a while on their former colonial masters.

Mr Paleshenko said the lowering of Soviet aims would find an echo in the United States and could help post-Start disarmament negotiations, although nuclear weapons on both sides would remain for the foreseeable future as a guarantee of dem-

ocracy. Mr Gorbachev still clung to a vision of a nuclear-free world, but this was a long-term hope, depending on the establishment of democracy worldwide and a strengthening of the United Nations.

Efforts to concentrate Soviet nuclear weapons in Russia were now unlikely; the leaders of the Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan were insisting on retaining their weapons. Mr Gorbachev has insisted these should be under a unified command, but there was no point discussing the details now.

Mr Paleshenko said that, with the moves to withdraw Soviet troops from Cuba, retraction was now virtually complete. The problem of the Kurile islands, the key to better relations with Japan, had been handed over to Russia, and Mr Gorbachev was content to let Boris

Yeltsin, the Russian Federation president, tackle this.

The task now was to change the Soviet foreign ministry to reflect the country's looser structure. Many diplomats would be retired and several senior ambassadors would be sent to Soviet republics to help them set up fully functioning foreign ministries. These in turn would supply many diplomats for future Soviet embassies abroad, which would be more like European Community missions, staffed by representatives drawn from all member states.

Mr Paleshenko said Boris Pankin, the new foreign minister, should not be underestimated. "He is a free thinker, not dogmatic." The job of redrafting Soviet policy would be difficult for anyone, but Mr Pankin was likely to grow in stature and experience.

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A new name for nurses

The 'patient's charter' will usher in an era of customised nursing. Heather Kirby assesses the pros and cons

What is a "named" nurse? What she is not is a sweet young thing in a starched uniform and black tights who will approach a hospital bed with a "Hi, there, I'm your nurse, Betty, and I will be looking after you during your stay".

The idea of the named nurse, which the prime minister promised this week will become a reality in the patient's charter, is widely welcomed by the nursing profession. They say that it will help to kill off the image of nurses as mere ministrating angels or doctors' handmaidens and give individual nurses more accountability and more responsibility. But what will it do for patients?

The system, which has been known in the United States since the 1960s, has already been introduced in some private and National Health Service hospitals here as "primary nursing". Lin Merrett, the matron of the BUPA hospital in Portsmouth, which introduced primary nursing two years ago, says that a named nurse is responsible for a group of patients from before they are admitted until they are discharged. "She will write to invite the patient to the hospital to meet her and her team and talk over what is going to happen. She has a deputy and the number of nurses depends on the number of patients they have to look after. They produce a written care plan."

Lynn Bateup, the director of the Nursing Development Unit at Dulwich Hospital, southeast London, where a primary nursing programme is being piloted, says the system means patients never need to complain that they do not see the same nurse twice. "Traditional nursing was very bitty and fragmented," she says. "Now the primary nurse, who will have five or six patients in her care, takes direct responsibility for all their needs. It is dramatically different, there is more job satisfaction and patients know who to blame or who to discuss things with."

"The named nurse will talk over with relatives a patient's post-operative needs and she will have the satisfaction of seeing her patient make progress. It is also more satisfying to the patient, who doesn't have to explain everything all over again to a new face."

"Primary nursing makes for a more stimulating working environment because nurses have a closer relationship with the patient," Ms Merrett says. "A named nurse consults and discusses treatment with the doctor; it is a partnership, she is no longer the doctors' handmaidens carrying out instructions."

The primary nurses at Dulwich do not wear uniforms, in order, Ms Bateup says, to reduce barriers



A new image of nursing care: Suzanne Brown with a patient on Byron ward at Dulwich Hospital, London

between patient and nurse. "Some people may think we sacrifice authority and that patients find a uniform reassuring, but it is up to the nurse to demonstrate her ability."

The named nurse concept is going to be adopted by midwives, although some health authorities say it presents difficulties, especially for London hospitals with patients referred from a long way away. Queen Mary's, at Sidcup, Kent, which has been running a pilot scheme, has six teams consisting of 12 or 13 midwives who manage 3,600 deliveries a year. Members of a team rotate between the hospital and community ante-natal and post-natal clinics. This means, according to Sue Sauter, the deputy maternity services manager, that no mother should see more than four midwives during her pregnancy. "We

prefer to talk about a named team rather than one individual. Because a midwife has to have days off and a holiday, a patient could not possibly see the same person over a nine month period," Mrs Sauter says. "The team leader organises her own team so that their specialist skills are spread around the area. The teams are known just by a number — the consultants wanted to give them their own names but we said 'no'. We weren't going to have consultants thinking 'this is my team'."

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) says it has been lobbying for years to have nurses' status changed and welcomes primary nursing as a breakthrough. However, it warns that the wholesale introduction of named nursing will require major surgery. Steve Wright, a consultant nurse in

the Nursing Development Unit at Thameside Hospital, Manchester, and a member of the RCN Council, feels that the training of nurses will have to be changed in order to teach them to manage a team. "Also, their relationship with the patient will be more intimate... but what if the patient doesn't want that? They will have to be taught to cope with different approaches with different patients. A nurse's role now is dealing with tasks like taking blood pressure, rather than dealing with people. If she identifies problems she will need the skills and resources to solve them. She will also be easily targeted if things go wrong, rather than being able to hide in the system. We welcome that, getting the compliments as well as the complaints, but named nurses is not going to be an easy concept to implement."

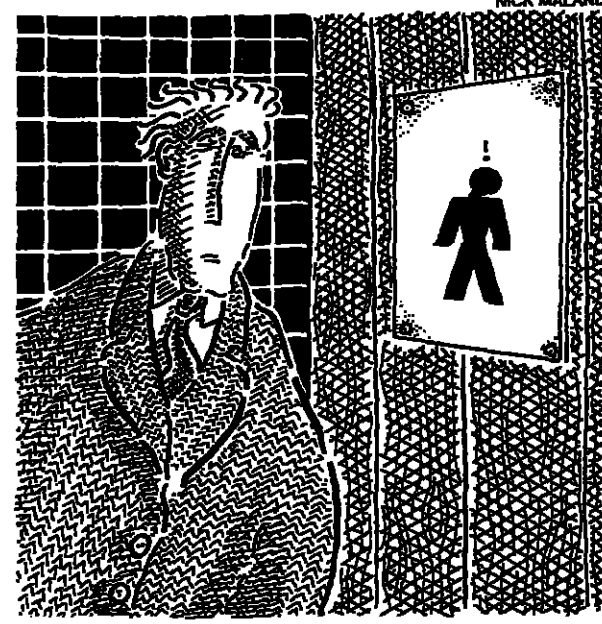
MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stratford

Youthful incontinence

ALTHOUGH incontinence is mainly a problem for the elderly — 30 per cent of those in old people's homes are incontinent — it does not affect only old men with weak bladders and large prostates, or women whose pelvic floor has been ravaged by childbirth. Fifteen per cent of women aged between 18 and 22 suffer from incontinence and one in three who have had children thereafter have problems when undertaking strenuous exercise.

Both *Mims* magazine and *Pulse* have recently discussed the problem of incontinence, but as they were coming off the press the Committee for Safety of Medicines warned that Micturin, one of the standard treatments for incontinence, was suspected of causing a heart irregularity — ventricular tachycardia of the Torsade de Pointes variety — and the drug was withdrawn. Torsade de Pointes tachycardia was hitherto rare, and usually associated with a congenital defect.

Seventy thousand patients in Britain were taking Micturin before it was withdrawn, and since the drug's introduction 440,000 have been treated with it in the United Kingdom and about two million worldwide. Only eight of these patients have, possibly, died from a cardiac



arrhythmia, but even in those a direct link to the drug is difficult to prove as elderly patients are not only prone to incontinence but also to heart disease which might, independent of any treatment, lead to a fatal arrhythmia.

Patients no longer prescribed Micturin should not be given another anticholinergic drug until the Micturin has cleared the body. This takes from two to six weeks. However, *Pulse*

has good news for the incontinent. Two-thirds can be helped and half cured with appropriate treatment. Incontinence varies according to the cause, which may range from minor urinary tract infection to severe neurological disease: women who have been left with a prolapse after childbearing, for instance, would benefit from exercise if it is minor, surgery if it is more severe. Ditropan is likely to fill the role held by Micturin.

Mad about a subject

THE mad professor, detached from everyday life, hopeless in his interpersonal relationships, at odds with society over his failure to observe its conventions, but with a pedantic and encyclopaedic knowledge of some obscure subject, was a stock character in films 50 years ago. At the same time an Austrian psychiatrist, Hans Asperger, described a syndrome, now bearing his name, of this type of personality. Cambridge University Press is due to publish a book this autumn by Dr Uta Frith on autism and Asperger's syndrome.

The symptoms of Asperger's syndrome, which may be a variant of autism, are well known. However, patients suffer ridicule because it is not often regarded as a medical condition, but merely as the quirks of a tiresome personality. If a patient with Asperger's syndrome is dedicated to a subject which is accepted as being relatively

academic, the spiders of East Anglia for example, he may be hailed as an eccentric but difficult genius, but if his life is devoted to the trivial, a study of milk bottle tops perhaps, no excuses are made for him.

Part of the syndrome is the possession of a difficult, detached manner, a lack of any humour, particularly over his chosen subject, an absence of the social graces and an inability to communicate easily.

There is no cure, but its recognition would make life easier for its sufferers and their families.



Burning off a man's sperm

A RECENT Israeli study, published in the *Archives of Andrology*, has confirmed that heavy smokers have a lower sperm count than non-smokers, and that the reduction is proportional to the number of cigarettes smoked. The good news for smokers is that the sperm, although fewer in number, have not lost any of their sprightliness and that they

are as motile and equally good at penetrating the ovum as those of non-smokers. In consequence, smokers seem to be as fertile as non-smokers. Another Israeli report, in *Pulse*, has shown that sperm's performance can be improved by boosting kinase C, a seminal enzyme protein, with an as yet unnamed drug which is now being tested for safety.

Helping to keep the body politic in trim

If fitness to govern were judged by attendance at the House of Commons gymnasium, then — on the basis of proportional representation on the exercise bicycles over the summer recess — the parliamentary rump of the SDP would be the winner of the next electoral race. So says Vicki Rose, the manager of the Westminster gymnasium, which serves both Houses of Parliament and staff of the Palace of Westminster.

Miss Rose, aged 26, who puts politicians through their paces at London's most exclusive and security-conscious gym, numbers Rosie Barnes, the Social Democratic Party member for Greenwich, among her most regular clients, together with Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats and Archie Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrat MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire.

"I don't think I have ever seen a health minister in here, except, perhaps, for photo-opportunities," Miss Rose says. At least not since Edwina

Is the Westminster gymnasium the place to see a politician sweat?

Currie's days in the old and much smaller gym which, the joke went, was barely big enough to swing a vote. And Mr Ashdown, she says, is the only party leader she has ever seen in the gym — although Norma Major has been down to have a look at it. "David Owen couldn't come — he's got knee problems," says Mrs Barnes loyally.

Although Conservative MPs — such as Sir James Spicer and Hugh Dykes, who were instrumental in founding the gym — far outnumber those of any other party, Mrs Barnes's attendance means that 33 per cent of SDP MPs are fighting fit — as compared with 20 per cent of Liberal Democrats and about 15 per cent of Conservatives.

Miss Rose feels that the general fitness level of Labour MPs, as assessed in the tests the gym insists upon before working out an exercise programme — was poorer than

that of their Conservative colleagues. "I'm not saying the Conservatives are more fit to govern," a diplomatic Miss Rose adds hastily. "Just that they're fitter in the gym."

John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor, who did "a progressive programme after his heart attack" and Dave Nellist, the MP for Coventry South East, are, she says, the two who best represented the Labour party's endeavours. Mr Nellist said he had gone only "five or six times over the summer" and that "most of the time my only exercise is getting up and down and up and down at Question Time, trying to be noticed."

Mrs Barnes is one of only three women out of the 65 MPs who have used the gym since it moved to its spacious new site in the Norman Shaw Buildings in Whitehall last December. Conservatives Dame Janet Fookes, MP for Plymouth, Drake, and Ann Winterton, the member for Congleton, are both regular users, and have kept up their attendance over the recess, but no women are among the "seven or eight" peers who keep in shape at the gym.

Some MPs, such as Mr Dykes, the Conservative MP for Harrow East, and others whose constituencies are in the London area, try never to miss a week. "I usually manage once or twice a week for an hour and a quarter," Mr Dykes says. "I've done the same routine for the 15 years and never vary it. At my request they play soothing classical music instead of that raucous rock."

If members of government are too busy to make use of the facility, their aides certainly do. Emma Hedges, who works for Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Solicitor General, has used the gym since it moved to its new location, and Ian Fisher, a Treasury civil servant, has worked out three or four times a week for two and a half years. "I can come in my lunch break," he says. "but I



Muscling in: the SDP's Rosie Barnes gets fit for government

suppose the politicians can't." The gym is open from 7.30am until 8pm, and is run by Fitness For Industry, which also runs the fitness clubs in Fort-Crest hotels and for other major companies. Miss Rose and her two colleagues, Nick Evans and Ian Handsforth, all have "sports and leisure degrees".

There are six exercise bicycles, including one with a video screen between the handlebars in order to give the impression of cycling up an American mountain. There is a good assortment of Polar Ultra weight machines, three Concept II rowing machines

and a GYRO rower, a sauna, solarium and a treatment room for physiotherapy and massage. Surprisingly there are no television screens showing what is going on in the House, but Miss Rose says there are plans to install them. "We do have division bells," she says.

The joining fee is £30, which includes the fitness assessment, and membership is £179 for the year. Six and three-monthly memberships are also available as are £3 vouchers for those who have joined to have one-off sessions.

Mrs Barnes spiritedly dis-

putes the need for fitness assessments. "Some of these young men just whizz through it — but do they take account of the fact that I'm 45 and have had three children? I feel I have tremendous stamina. I keep going from early in the morning until late at night. I'd say I'm a sturdy, fit person, and just because I don't conform to their ideal body type doesn't mean I'm unfit."

Certainly Mrs Barnes does not seem out of breath after going through her routine of floor exercises, weight-training, bicycling, fast-walking and rowing. "My weight seems under control," says the former SDP spokesperson on health and education, "and I'm sure that if I keep coming I might even lose weight. I must say that I've begun to dislike it less than I used to."

Mr Ashdown is usually singled out as an example of parliamentary fitness, but the former Royal Marine commando officer says: "I'm not a fitness fanatic. I happen to have been doing it all my life, but I'm not a proselytiser about it. Orde Wingate, the British Second World War general who believed that 'the only answer to penetration is counter penetration', who is one of my heroes, said that 'a man is either his own physician or a fool at 30'. My office knows very well that if I'm getting crotchety or bad-tempered they must send me off to the gym, and something of a fitness culture has built up within the Liberal Democrats. The whole of our Whip's office and all of my staff go."

Does he think more MPs should spend more time in the gym? "Absolutely. Then they'd spend less time in the Chamber, and the country would be better governed."

Although spouses are allowed to use the facilities, Jane Ashdown is not likely ever to be among them. "My wife believes exercise is thoroughly bad for you," Mr Ashdown says. "I know of people who are just as active and have sharper brains than mine and do none at all."

VICTORIA MCKEE

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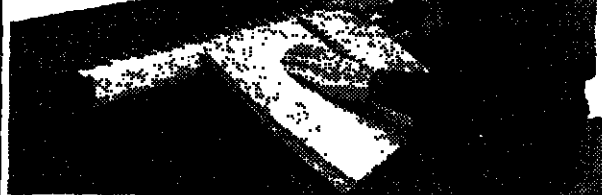
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Wicked life after death

Victoria
Glendinning on
elegiac but funny
stories of the
way we live now
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She's very good, but we've heard it all before. Even the settings and situations are familiar from her previous volumes of stories — memories of Canadian summer camps, canoe-trips, student affairs or non-affairs, the opportunistic lust of academic males for their students. Margaret Atwood is remarkably consistent in her practices and purposes.

This coherence is handy for critical studies of her work, but not so much fun for general readers, who long for authors to amaze them. She does supply surprises, usually nasty ones, but the horror seems as defiantly gratuitous as the ovarian tumour sent to an ex-lover in a box of chocolate truffles in her story "Hairball". The expression "a body of work", or even a "corpus", is apt in the case of Margaret Atwood. So much has died.

There are two disinterred corpses in this new collection of stories — one a leathery bog man dug out of a peat field in Scotland, the other the young sailor from Franklin's expedition to search for the North-West Passage, discovered fully dressed and deep frozen in the permafrost of the Arctic. Both stand as metaphors for dead relationships that live on in the mind, to be picked over and reinterpreted.

The bog man may have met his end as a sacrifice to the gods, just as the young woman student had sacrificed herself to the desire of the archaeologist.

The idea of human sacrifice is one thing, but the leftovers are something else again. The central characters in all these new stories are leftovers. Atwood's method is to disinter the past, uncovering the strata that make up a life. Her stories are burial mounds, full of detailed memories of place and period, of food, clothes, popular songs, artefacts and kitchen decor, which the middle-aged man or woman unpacks and broods over.

It was the early Sixties; the precise year had to do with bubble-cut hairdos, with white lipstick, with dark rings pencilled round the eyes, recalls the mature woman who was once the naive student, infatuated with the married archaeology professor in "The Bog Man". Atwood's characters have total recall of physical detail,



Margaret Atwood, princess of our recovery of times past, with her new collection of tales of dead relationships that are universal

up to 30 years later. In "Isis in Darkness" a paunchy, unsuccessful academic works on the poetry of the young woman with long dark hair and black-outlined eyes who thrilled him reading her work in coffee-bars when they were young. He knows she is now thick-bodied, dowdy, smelling of cats and cheap wine, but he digs obsessively for the magic she once had for him. The ageing, left-wing woman journalist in "Hack Wednesday" is "squirreling away bits of time" — photos, letters, baby-clothes, a piece of the Berlin Wall — as her personal and political universe crumbles and rearranges itself. "and time goes on".

These are sad stories, concerned with the superannuation of ideas, or love, or fame, or talent.

WILDERNESS TIPS And Other Stories By Margaret Atwood Bloomsbury, £14.99

Betrayal, disappointment, disillusion, loss, seem inevitable. Reconstructing love and life from the shards of memory doesn't seem to help anyone. Lois in "Death by Landscape" (one of the summer camp, canoe-trip stories) "can remember everything, every detail, but it does her no good". The past remains a museum, and one's former self a museum-piece.

The woman in "The Bog Man" makes her old love affair into a funny story for her friends, but her story is "like an artefact from a

vanished civilisation" because the social climate which made it possible has vanished. Similarly in "True Trash", which reconstructs memories of a traumatic sexual initiation at a summer camp: "It's an archaic story, a folk-tale, a mosaic artefact. It's a story that would never happen now."

All pretty depressing, and infertile. Yet Atwood can be wonderfully funny, about the wife of a successful, unfaithful man in "Weight", for example, "overtanned, overexercised, with alert leathery eyes and too many tendons in her neck. I see these wives, packs of them, or pairs or teams, loping around in their tennis whites, over at the club. Smug, but jump". She is sharp about Englishmen — the cultivated,

charming ones who "will flirt with dogs if there is nothing else handy", because they must get a response to their charm; or the whingeing ones: "It was a traditional compliment to be whinged at by an Englishman. It was his way of saying he trusted you, he was conferring upon you the privilege of getting to know the real him. The inner, whingeing him. That was how they thought of women, secretly: whinge receptacles."

She may, to borrow her imagery, have dug her own grave so far as these short stories are concerned, but there's an awful lot of wicked life, like ferrets in a sack, jumping about in her writing. If she could only let the undead bury their dead.

Dirty work fills Victorian Bath

STEPHEN Collingwood is a soul in torment. As curate in charge of the Chapel of St Catherine, he is responsible for the spiritual welfare of Haul Down, an unsanctified area of the city. A well-connected widower, he could have had his pick of the smarter inner city livings. But Stephen has a taste for the hair shirt. It aggravates his painfully crooked faith, and inflames his feelings for Charlotte Moore.

All are lost causes — Stephen, his faith, and his passion for the lovely Mrs Moore — for this is late Victorian England. Mrs Moore

has an amiable and blameless husband, who cannot therefore be dispossessed of his wife. The bishop is too busy sniffing the breezes of Ventnor to offer Stephen counsel. As for the curate himself, his concern for the likes of crazy Ann Smallwood and the much-abused Joan Greenway, stamp him as a man too far ahead of his time to survive.

He doesn't. Isabel Colegate dispatches him with a particularly deft, melodramatic twist towards the end of *The Summer of the Royal Visit*. The occasion of the eponymous visit is the opening of a new municipal library, but the unsmiting old monarch also sees plans for a monstrous new hotel to be built at the heart of the city. The design is by one Edwin Hanbury, who just happens to be city surveyor. No suggestion of insider dealing, of course. There was a grand architectural competition, judged by no less a figure than the Oxford Professor of Architecture. That noted, the result was flabbergasting, and Prof. Dacre did leave town with indecent haste.

No one exposes the misdeeds of the haute bourgeoisie with more relish than Miss Colegate. She is also a dab hand at creating period feel without submerging her characters in a sea of historical detail. *The Summer of the Royal Visit* is also beautifully written.

From the sublime to the — well, let's settle for outrageous. Stephen Fry is a man of many parts. *The Liar*, his first novel, confirms Mr Fry's literary potential, and will do nothing to diminish public curiosity in the contrast aroused by reports of excessive priapism in the past, and his currently avowed preference for celibacy.

The anti-hero of *The Liar* is

Adrian Healey — outwardly jaunty, inwardly prone to self-loathing — who reminisces at length about youthful sodomy (first at public school then, more profitably, as a Piccadilly rent boy) yet is not averse to more conventional heterosexual comings and goings. Being a Cambridge man, Healey sports a cloak and dagger and is no stranger to literary fraud. Mr Fry revels in his own cleverness, and writes with such panache that it's difficult to avoid being swept up in the fun. At one stroke, he seems to have relieved himself of the school

novel, the university novel and the literary thriller. It'll be interesting to see where he goes next in this genre, if anywhere. (Less whimsical than his pal Douglas Adams, Stephen Fry is unlikely to make the bestseller list. He will, however, make some people very happy indeed, not just by virtue of zest and charm, but because he takes a craftsman's pride in assembling his sentences.)

Fun of a different kind from an iconoclast of yesteryear (remember the "Schoolkids Oz" trial), Richard Neville, once resident counter-cultural attaché in London, now safely repotted in domestic bliss in his native Australia, with nothing better to do than try to create a bestseller out of what happens to ex-iconoclasts who sell out. Some good one-liners and gibes directed with careful even-handedness at TV moguldom and the sillier excesses of post hippydom. But I'm afraid it's all very predictable, and I can't see *Playing Around* happening for the nice Mr Neville.

It will, for the nice Mrs. Crosland, though. Susan Crosland's late-ish run on the open side for the title of thinking reader's Jackie Collins will be significantly advanced by her second novel. Set largely in Washington and London against a background of power politics and weekly journalism, *Dangerous Games* fairly cracks along. Politicians posture, lobbyists lobby, editors fornicate. IRA bombers bomb — even the Dobermann Pinschers do what Dobermanns do best (not for the squeamish, this scene). Like much successful popular fiction, this is a highly moral tale. It's consistently entertaining, however, and more than adequately written.

Pursuit of happiness in files and life

WHAT is happiness? That is the question, though you would never guess it at first. Michael Frayn's wonderful new novel threatens for six chapters to be just a well-written spy story.

Jessel, a paper-pusher in the Cabinet Office, is given a death to investigate. A colleague was found on the pavement under a Ministry of Defence window 16 years earlier. Belatedly the television is showing an inquest, threatening to reveal that he was working on some secret defence project. Jessel takes the case with reluctance. He

knew Summerchild in another life, that of his childhood. The memories are few but indelible. In the lane where the young Jessel stood with Summerchild's daughter, Summerchild appeared out of darkness, his hair "like an angel's aureole against the street lamp". When he spoke "the words seemed to have been dragged up one by one from the depths". He seemed dull but troubled, Jessel's own state, then and now. This, it seems, is a spy novel in which self-exploration goes hand in hand with professional fretting. The simultaneous probing

Frances Hill

A LANDING ON THE SUN By Michael Frayn Viking, £14.99

into Summerchild's secret activities and Jessel's memories and present, sad life become compelling, for him and the reader. Jessel discovers Summerchild was working for a mysterious branch of government called the Strategy Unit, set up by Harold Wilson. But the first clue to its nature reveals that both the unit and the novel are quite different from what we expected.

The whole is even more bizarre than the parts, but

makes lunatic sense. Within this dazzling intellectual framework lies an exploration of the obscure emotion that is the book's central theme. Frayn attempts definitions. "Happiness is an aspect of the thoughts you're thinking" and "happiness is being where one is and not wanting to be anywhere else." His two main characters do not just discuss the condition, they achieve it. The reader, though, does not witness this, but learns it indirectly. Summerchild and others are presences heard but not seen. In this novel, as in *The Trick of It*, Frayn's last, the narrator is on stage alone.

Jessel deduces, rather than finds out with certainty, that they achieve happiness at the price of misery to others. Intermittent anguish to them-

selves and, finally, death. The technique is fascinating. But the drawback is that the characters never come fully alive. Frayn suggests that happiness is a fleeting condition never experienced in isolation from its opposite, but by contrast to it and mixed with it. The question has to be asked whether, without making the reader care about the characters' feelings, the novelist can stir those of his readers so as to give new understanding of old truths rediscovered. In *The Trick of It* Frayn implicitly asked this question himself.

Never mind. He has delivered an elegantly written and constructed, witty, intriguing, thought-provoking read. There have been few new novels as enjoyable or interesting.

Swardback shafts novel trendy the

FRONT to back novel irritating deeply and flawed but clever a is this. Reels mind the till backward running, review the is so. Very-arsy runs *Arrow Time's*, positions different between flight its in stationary arrow the of paradox Xeno's like. So it starts with a man's death in an American hospital, with something like the man's soul, which never quite became attached to him in his lifetime, acting as the perplexed and disgusted narrator, as their (dis)joint past life unfolds.

Of course, it is impossible, as we have already just seen, to keep up the back-to-front trick literally, without becoming impenetrable or irritating, or both. To start with the man cries "shub". But quite soon it is just the exchange of sentences and exclamations in conversations, not the words and syllables that are reversed — stichomythia in the fast backward mode, full of dramatic irony for the past/future. The man is called Tod T. Friendly at the time of his death, me to symbolic heavily sounds which. And he seems to be in a pretty good mess, apart from being dead: a doctor, promiscuous, impotent, and haunted by some black secret to do with children and women. The way that

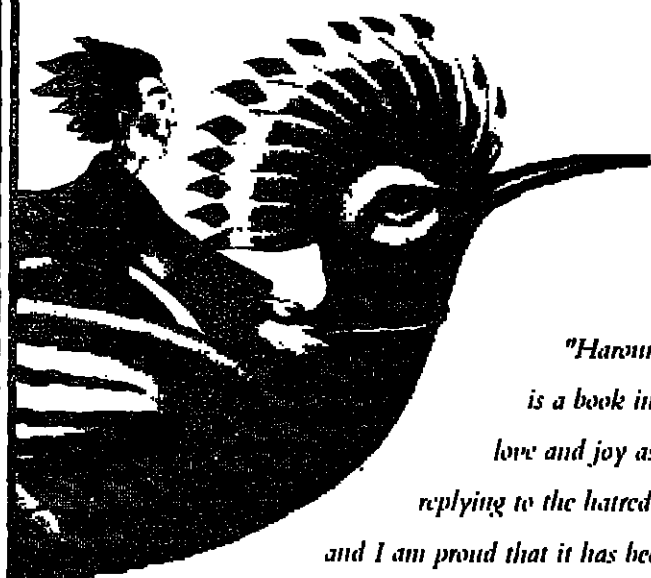
everything happens chronologically back to front gives Amis Martin opportunities for bad taste scatological jokes with the acts of defecation, vomiting, love, and, in due course, abortion. Not all of these acts are equally funny, jokes to accessible or. Meeting new characters at the crumpled end of their relationships with Tod gives an element of detective story, as you try to imagine what can have brought them to this miserable conclusion.

Force de tour is it, a tricky novel for the literary and crosswording classes. Bed in read to bottom the in pain a but. The trouble is that the ingenious form is incongruously matched with its matter, which is tragic as Tod's life unwinds backwards to his youth in the war. Some scenes are so terrible that it is almost blasphemous, and certainly uncomfortable, to run the film of them backwards. Amis Martin, shot fascinating a. "Round way right the it have we can time next but

Philip Howard

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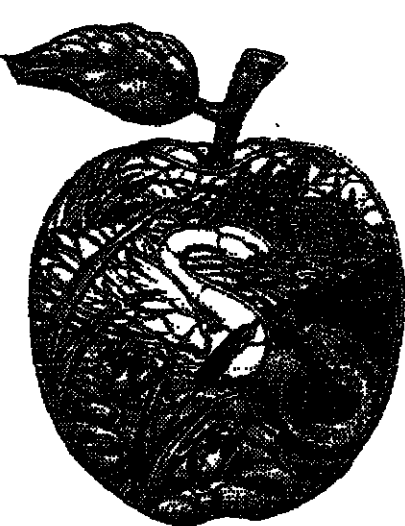
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TELEVISION

Knocks without much punch

THERE is a famous pilgrimage in Ireland that involves the almighty self-mortification of climbing a mountain on one's knees. Watching last night's play, *Journey to Knock* (BBC 2), in which three disabled Englishmen travelled by Catholic nursing-home mini-bus to an Irish shrine — overcoming lots of mishaps with wheelchairs along the way — one could not help feeling that an urge towards penance was perhaps one's reason for staying tuned. "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned." "That's all right. Say three Hail Marys and watch *Journey to Knock*."

Written by former *Coronation Street* star William Ivory, this play was strangely unmoving, but it is hard to say exactly why. Perhaps it was just fashionably "unsentimental" — which covers (as they say) a multitude of sins. The frustrations and indignities experienced by young Terry (David Thewlis) were certainly pitiable. But somehow his embittered "Why me?" complaints, though passionate, were never allowed to pack a proper punch.

The context for his sufferings was not so much disability as Catholicism — which was a shame, because Ivory



Professing advice John Hunt had dramatised Terry's disability, but left his spiritual dilemma to look after itself (it didn't). Struck down by a fatal motor neurone disease, Terry claimed repeatedly that he drew no solace from religion. Unfortunately, this never seemed really important, especially since his rantings were defused continually by the reactions of his two Wise Old Bird companions (played by John Hurt and Charles Simon).

The spiritual dimension of *Journey to Knock* was always its weakest point. But, to be fair, the play possessed few strengths anyway. With the exception of David Thewlis's fine performance, there was almost nothing to get a handle on. The motivations of the John Hunt character, Alfred, were a total mystery; events and conversations seemed arbitrary; the neglect of Terry's spiritual needs was absurd; and the waywardness of wheelchairs ("Whoops, there it goes") was a dramatic device milked once too often.

Radio Times, however, explained away all these difficulties with blinding simplicity. *Journey to Knock* was not only "unsentimental" but a comedy, too. Lumme. One casts one's mind back, and dredges, frantically, for laughs. Call me a pompous old sober-sided, but perhaps I need to be given more obvious permission to laugh when disability is at stake. A few jokes, for example, might have done the trick.

LYNNE TRUSS

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Tapping wit and warmth by turns

Geoff Brown reviews Liza Minnelli in *Stepping Out*, Mel Brooks's fumbling *Life Stinks*, plus *Trust*, *FX2*, *Teen Agent* and *Get Back*

W hoever thought Liza Minnelli would play a character called Mavis? Yet here she is, the gamine firecracker of stage and screen, cast as Mavis Turner — somebody picking up the pieces after a failed Broadway career by teaching amateurs tap-dancing in a Buffalo church hall. "I even auditioned for Bob Fosse once," this star of *Cabaret* tells an awestruck pupil, "I didn't get the job, but" — the voice assuming the bended knee position — "I did get to touch his sleeve."

"Come off it, Liza!" you feel like yelling. Yet for all the distortions caused by star casting and an American setting, Lewis Gilbert's *Stepping Out* (PG, Cannon Baker Street, Fulham Road, Empire) retains much of the simple warmth of Richard Harris's play. Liza gets her moments in the spotlight — a high-kicking dance routine, an impassioned belt through Kander and Ebb's title song, yet she sinks herself sufficiently into Mavis Turner to make the story viable.

Originally, these would-be hoofers — seven women, one trembling man — learned their steps for a charity show arranged by a woman from Iowa. Now their goal is a far ritzier affair, organised by a silver-tongued bitch at the Centre for the Performing Arts. In adapting his play for the screen, Harris stretches the action beyond the church hall set, but kernel remains the rehearsals and Mavis's struggle to mould her misfits into Fred and Ginger.

Steps, twirls and pratfalls leave Harris's little room for strong characterisations, so the performers must convince by their own efforts. As the tactless, prissy Vera, Julie Walters stirs much laughter, though the American setting leaves her pearls-and-twirls Brit socially misnamed. Sheila McCarthy (from *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*) brings the show's gangling Andy quivering to life. Shirley Walters has her moments as the solar pianist ("Hats and canes? You're asking for trouble").

The veteran director, Gilbert, displays the same common touch and sympathy for women that *Shogun* and *Shogun* director, He Do What He Can, does nothing to make Harris's plot surprising, nobody could. But *Stepping Out* was never meant to trip up the audience; by tried and true means, it aims to amuse and warm the heart's cockles.

Mine were warmed to a turn. For those with astringent tastes, Hal Hartley's *Trust* (15, Metro, Everyman) is the answer to a prayer. Almost every character teeters on the brink of psychosis. Pregnant small-town teenage brat Maria starts with a slap; Matthew, a computer engineer with a very short fuse, cossets a hand grenade lest he becomes overwhelmed by his abusive father or the world at large. Streets are stocked with lecherous storekeepers, sad baby kidnappers. Nothing is safe, not even a glass of milk: the camera watches as one

'Steps, twirls and pratfalls leave Harris little room for strong characterisations'

shudders off a vibrating washing machine and smashes to the floor. Another director might create a monument to despair from such material. Not Hal Hartley: this bright new talent from the American independent sector deals in delicious deadpan comedy. His first feature, *The Unbelievable Truth*, set forth his style and his penchant for ripping the veils from small-town America. *Trust*, its successor, hones images and dialogue to new sharpness and provides extra dramatic punch.

"I feel like tearing somebody's head off," Martin Donovan's Matt proclaims. Brevity is all, in word and deed, yet Hartley's characters still build into something approaching recognisable people. Adrienne Shelly — bookworm heroine of *The Unbelievable Truth* — makes a particularly good job of Maria: a horrid girl at the start, but slowly improving as she attempts normal domestic relationships. Hartley's mixture of explosive, bizarre, pathetic and hilarious may not suit all tastes, but with your mind set at the appropriate angle, an epicure's feast is guaranteed.

Mel Brooks: Mel who? The sad fact is that the march of screen humour has left the creator of *Blazing Saddles* twiddling his

thumbs. For vulgar buffoonery, audiences now flock to Brooks's imitators, to the Zucker-Abraham combo and *The Naked Gun*. At least *Life Stinks* (12, Odeon Haymarket), Brooks's first feature since the 1987 *Spaceballs*, recognises the fact, as it takes the star-director into new terrain: the homeless, the derelict, the chasm between rich and poor.

At first Brooks parades his usual persona, playing a callous developer, happily levelling nursing homes. Then he accepts a rival's bet that he cannot survive in downtown Los Angeles without money, credit cards or any mark of status; even his toupee is removed. The scene shifts to the city's meanest streets, rife with crime, crime, cardboard shelters and half-crazed bums — a depressing environment that crows the mighty developer and almost swamps the thin, episodic script.

In the past, Chaplin and the Preston Sturges of *Sullivan's Travels* managed to wrest both sentiment and slapstick from society's ills. Brooks seems inhibited: afraid both of calling on the viewers' emotions or plunging headlong into plain bad taste. *Life Stinks* only finds its feet when attempted realism is ditched for old vaudeville *schick*, for cross-talk, facial slaps and wild exaggeration. Elsewhere, the film fumbles: hesitant tears here, mild slapstick there, with an MGM musical parody thrown in. Brooks's screen partner for much of the footage is Lesley Ann Warren (a man-hating bag-lady), were there Oscars for shrieking, she would win hands down.

Meanwhile, Hollywood's sequel machine grinds on. FX, a 1986 thriller, popular on video, is the current subject for treatment. *FX2: The Deadly Art of Illusion* (15, Cannon Haymarket, Tottenham Court Road; Odeon High Street Kensington) proves as overloaded as the title. Bryan Brown returns as the special-effects wizard, using his skills in the fight against crime, though the crowded script gives him much competition. There is Bluey the clown and other remote-controlled gadgets; there is a thug who refuses to stay dead; above all, there is Brian Dennehy, an actor with a twice Brown's charisma. As it twists and turns through red herrings, loose ends and pumped-up set pieces, *FX2* provides a moderate way of wasting



Sinking herself well into the role: Liza Minnelli as Mavis Turner

time. On balance, though, I'd rather play patience.

Every month, some television face that won America's heart gets launched on the big screen. September's contestant is Richard Grieco, from *21 Jump Street* and *Booker*: triangular chin, quizzical eyebrows, swarthy Italian colouring. In America, Teen Agent (PG, Cannon Haymarket, Oxford Street; Whiteleys) is called *If Looks Could Kill*, and if Grieco's fail to, little else about the film will. It begins as an amiable spy spoof. Grieco plays a CIA operative during a class trip to France. But pleasing business with 007 gadgets gives way to mundane

action and special effects. Roger Rees is the chief villain; Linda Hunt looks uncomfortable as his sidekick, William Dear directed.

Finally, *Get Back* (PG, Cannon Pantons Street), a docile record of Paul McCartney's 1969-70 world tour, which never moves backstage nor gives any indication of whether the seraphic one is performing in Dar es Salaam or Milton Keynes. For visual contrast, the director Richard Lester, an old Beatles hand, makes facile dips into archive footage and his own film, *Help!*. The music, of course, is richly nostalgic, yet compared to *In Bed With Madonna*, the film crawls through the projector like a tortoise.

Titular change

THE British-made film *The Pope Must Die* has undergone a title change in the United States. To avoid giving offence to religious groups it is now *The Pope Must Die*. The new title was suggested by the film's star Robbie Coltrane, who had noticed that the extra T had frequently been added as graffiti on posters in this country — evidently as a comment on his own chubbiness.

Tootling on

OCTOBER 28 is the date set for Ronnie Scott's great expansion. After 32 years in Frith Street, Soho, he is set to open a second jazz club — in Birmingham. The club, in Broad Street, will be inaugurated with a bill headed by the Rolling Stones' drummer, Charlie Watts, and his quintet, leading a Charlie Parker tribute. Attractions later in the season include Marion Montgomery and George Fane.

Win for Weir

A BRITISH television film has taken top honours at "Opera Screen" — the first International Festival of Film and Television Operas, in Helsinki. *Heaven Ablaze in His Breast*, by the Scottish composer Judith Weir, was directed for Danceshow Productions by Peter Mumford, and was first screened on BBC 2 last May. It won the festival's first prize of \$22,500 (£13,000), beating 200 other entries from around the world.

Last chance...

IN THE Kander & Ebb musical *70, Girls, 70*, ancient vaudeville performers turn to crime for reasons too feeble to mention. The show is a hotch-potch of chances taken and missed, and the songs are less than so-so, but the vitality of the old troupers is cheering and Dora Bryan larks about as irrepressibly as ever. At the Vaudeville (071-836 9987) until Saturday.

OPERA

Round the Ring and back

Hilary Finch meets British bass John Tomlinson, who takes four roles in Covent Garden's latest *Ring* cycle



Tomlinson: "Wotan is now an extension of myself"

Productions of the *Ring* have a way of growing slowly. So slowly, in fact, that long-term casting decisions sometimes seem to be working on entirely different timescales. Exceptionally clear, far-sighted vision is essential for any management planning the four mighty chapters of Wagner's epic, and this time round, Covent Garden seems to have been wearing bifocals.

In the unfolding instalments of the Götz Friedrich *Ring* which the Royal Opera hastily borrowed from Berlin when their own Lyubimov experiment foundered in 1989, British bass John Tomlinson has been cast as the two dark schemers, Hunding and Hagen. But even as he was plotting vengeance and acting as agent of the curse which dogs Wotan, Tomlinson was reigning as the great god himself in Bayreuth. His outstanding success in the last four years as Wolfgang Wagner's chosen Wotan has at last cowed Covent Garden into slotting him in for a single Wotan on Saturday, sharing the role with the American bass, James Morris.

Tomlinson himself is generous enough to give Covent Garden the benefit of the doubt. "My Wotan really did come as a surprise to most people. They'd always thought of me as a true bass, but it turned out that the top of my voice was good enough for Wotan." Something of an understatement for a singer who is one of the most sought-after Wotans in Europe.

Tomlinson's profound understanding of the character is likely to gain one more dimension from working with Götz Friedrich. Harry Kupfer's Bayreuth Wotan startled audiences by its bold humanity. More a flawed hero than a god, this Wotan showed a rare complexity of motivation. "In Friedrich's understanding, Wotan is altogether less extreme, more a creature of reason," says Tomlinson. "It's

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MERMAID THEATRE

Ivor Crewe believes that for the first time a general election may be decided on how the voters view the main party leaders

How much do leaders matter?

Conventional psephological wisdom is that the British vote for the party, not the leader. The elections of 1945, 1970 and 1979 are all instances of a government being defeated even though its leader (Churchill, Wilson and Callaghan respectively) was more popular than that of the Opposition's (Atlee, Heath and Thatcher). Surveys show that those voters who prefer the policies of one party but the policies of the other plump for the policies by six to one. The personal qualities of a party leader only contribute plus or minus two per cent to a party's vote.

This conventional wisdom may soon have to be revised. The next election campaign will be the first to be dominated by television and fought by three centrist parties. On the one hand, television will

unrelentingly portray each party's campaign in terms of what its leader does: his early morning press conference, his mid-morning factory tour, his afternoon walk-about, his evening speech. To this can be added the set-piece big television interviews and perhaps, for the first time, a live debate between the leaders.

On the other hand, the campaign is likely to turn upon the leaders' qualities more than before. The ideological gap between the Conservatives and Labour has never been narrower. The campaign will be devoted to questions of performance, not policy, and

claims about performance amount to claims about the qualities of the party leaders. When Mr Kinnock argues that a Labour government would do things better, not differently, he is making a claim about his team's competence, and above all, his own. At the next election, uncommitted voters will have to judge the parties in terms of their leaders.

The parties are likely to enter the election with one of the biggest popularity gaps between their leaders since regular poll measurements began in the early 1960s. Last month, John Major's "approval rating" was 17 points

ahead of Neil Kinnock's. Comparable figures from three months before other elections show that this gap has been exceeded only once — by Mrs Thatcher's lead over Michael Foot in 1983. Harold Wilson enjoyed a similar lead over Edward Heath in 1966, as did Mrs Thatcher over Mr Kinnock in 1987. On each occasion the government won handsomely.

Between now and the election, this gap is more likely to widen than to narrow, as the Tory tabloids go to work on Mr Kinnock. In his new book, *Media and Voters* (OUP), William Miller shows that in 1987 the right-wing

press had a significant impact on their Labour-supporting readers' views of Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnock; an impact that grew as the campaign progressed. Even larger numbers of impressionable, easily-detachable Labour sympathisers read *The Sun* and the *Daily Star* than in 1987.

Both Mr Major's and Mr Kinnock's public stock are well entrenched. In Mr Major's case, the expected pattern of a short honeymoon followed by creeping disillusionment has not been realised. In his first two months as prime minister, his approval rating was 49.50 per cent; in July and

August it was 50.52 per cent. No other prime minister since records began has maintained such a consistently high standing in the first nine months of office. So far, Mr Major seems to have some of Ronald Reagan's Teflon qualities, taking credit for the success in the Gulf, but avoiding blame for unemployment and riots.

In Mr Kinnock's eight years as Opposition leader — the longest period this century that anyone has been Opposition leader without holding office — he has been unable to shake off voters' doubts about his prime ministerial potential. Three months before the 1987

election he trailed 34 to 52 per cent on the approval question; last month he trailed 36 to 54 per cent. Voters appear to have made up their minds about him and it is far from obvious that another Hugh Hudson Kinnock commercial will have the same surprise effect.

The government wants the next election to be seen as a contest between John Major and Neil Kinnock. Having campaigned for the past few years on the question of competence, Labour can hardly resist. The Liberal Democrats will have no objection, so long as the spotlight occasionally falls on the fresh and dynamic Mr Ashdown. So John Major versus Neil Kinnock, with occasional sidelong glances at Paddy Ashdown, is what the voters will get.

● The author is professor of government at Essex University

Putting a patent on discovery

Nigel Hawkes says the row over who discovered Aids threatens science

Science, once a quiet backwater occupied by dreamy dons with obsessive interest in obscure subjects, is beginning to seem every bit as cut-throat as big business. Almost every week there are claims of fraud or misdemeanour, arguments about priority, and challenges to the integrity of research workers.

Once started, such challenges have a tendency, like a soap-opera, to run and run. This week, for example, the seven-year row over who discovered the virus that causes Aids has entered a new phase. An official American investigation has concluded that one of the scientists credited with the discovery was guilty of "creating and fostering" an atmosphere conducive to fraud in his laboratory at the United States National Cancer Institute near Washington.

Robert Gallo, the scientist concerned, has so far made no public comment on the leaked draft of the investigator's report, though his lawyers say that it is inaccurate and only an early draft. After years of denial, Dr Gallo recently admitted that the virus identified by his laboratory had reached him from the Pasteur Institute in Paris, but most people believed that was the result of confusion rather than dishonesty.

The report appears to make rather more serious charges, suggesting that Dr Gallo had erased from his original paper a reference to the fact that an assistant, Mikulas Popovic, had grown a sample of the Pasteur virus. By turning a blind eye to his colleague's actions, Dr Gallo merited "significant censure", the report is believed to say.

The saga of the Aids virus, which has rumbled threateningly ever since Dr Gallo and Dr Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris first contested primacy back in 1984, looks likely to encompass a few more chapters yet. At stake are not just academic honours, or even Nobel Prizes, but the substantial royalties that are expected to be earned from test kits that use the original finding.

The fuss over Aids is not, alas, an isolated incident. The more triumphs the biologists celebrate, the more understanding they gain of the innermost workings of the human cell, the higher the potential rewards and the greater the

temptation to cheat. The danger is that the old relationships, the easy to and fro between laboratories which has enabled scientists to share data and specimens freely, will be sacrificed and with it will go much of the impetus behind discovery.

This week, the European parliament has been discussing the question of patenting life forms, a step that the US Patent Office took three years ago when it granted a patent to Harvard University for a mouse which incorporated a gene predisposing it to cancer. If Europe follows the same route, many discoveries by scientists working in biology will acquire the status of inventions. The machinery of the cell will be as patentable as a new engine, or a new kind of microchip, a change that will surely further increase the pressures on scientists.

Already, many biologists working in exciting areas of molecular biology think first of seeking patents, and only second of publishing their work so that others can read and repeat it.

To fail to do so in the tough climate of the 1990s would be foolish — the Medical Research Council has never been forgiven for failing to patent the discovery of monoclonal antibodies by Cesar Milstein at the Molecular Biology Laboratory at Cambridge. For biology it represents a loss of innocence.

More insidious are the pressures to claim results even when they cannot be justified. In America, one of the greatest growth areas in science over the past decade has been the case of the Office of Scientific Integrity (OSI), a department of the National Institutes of Health. During 1990, OSI uncovered six cases of data fabrication, five of plagiarism, and seven of other "deviant" scientific behaviour involving dishonesty of one sort or another. OSI has 70 cases on its books.

Does it matter very much if science succumbs to the same mores that have long governed business? The answer is that it may, if the result is to dry up the free flow of communication that makes science work so well. If nothing can be taken on trust, the very essence of the scientific method might be lost, and that would be a tragedy for all of us.

Satan laughs at Yugoslavia

Bernard Levin on the death throes of a mongrel nation



Praying for peace: the funeral of a Croatian soldier killed at the battle of Tenja in Marijanci

the colours were no less bright, particularly the ones dyed in blood. Then the devil, doubled up with laughter, pointed to the hybrid thing called Yugoslavia.

We don't believe in the devil, do we? But the trouble is that the devil does believe in us, and that is why there is a country made up of half a dozen irreconcilable miniature states with names that seem to be anagrams, all apparently determined to kill the people in some or all of the others.

You can go rabbiting on about nationalism all day and most of the night, and start on the murderous evil of Tito as dawn comes up, but you will know in your heart that it has nothing to do with such recognisable and logical explanations, and if you say that it has you

still have to explain the powerful scent of brimstone that fills the air.

You also have to explain another extraordinary phenomenon: frequently — too frequently to be coincidence — the smaller and more insignificant the territory, the greater and more violent the passion with which it is defended and with which it attacks. Own up: had you ever so much as heard of Nagorno-Karabakh until the Soviet Union fell to pieces (I forbear to ask if you could find it on a map), and now that you have heard of it would you like to be asked who are the people the Nagorno-Karabakhians hate, and why they hate them?

You could turn the tables on your tormentor, of course, by asking the Nagorno-Karabakh fac-

tion themselves why they hate the other lot, and some damned silly answers you would get, but that very fact reinforces the claim that evil cannot be destroyed but can only change its shape, its direction and its employers. Somebody has been reading Shakespeare, but misunderstanding him:

... Whose spirit with divine ambition puff'd
Makes mouths at the invisible event
Exposing what is mortal and unsure
To all that fortune, death and danger dare,
Even for an egg-shell.

O, but their spirits have been puff'd with divine ambition lately,

these Yugoslavs, and I bet they really did believe it was divine; however, I would rather you draw to their attention, rather than me, the bit about invisible events and what is mortal and unsure, particularly when the invisible events lead to extirpating passers-by who ask for directions in strange accents.

Perhaps the trouble started when we stopped talking about the Balkans, the very word is *inso facto* ridiculous, but when men with unkempt moustaches started to talk in their own patois about Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia and God knows what else ending in a, the signs could be seen posted at any crossroads in any of these constituent mini-nations, and not even a colloquy of linguists could persuade themselves that any of the signs read:

... while, to my shame, I see
The imminent death of twenty thousand men,
That, for a fantasy and trick of fame,
Go to their graves like beds,
Fight for a plot
Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause,
Which is not tomb enough and continent
To hide the slain!

And we can still not be sure that a pack of clowns from the European Community, headed by that man from Luxembourg, might send an expeditionary force to separate the Yugoslav factions.

Que l'humanité se débrouille sans moi. These noble and most helpful words have been badly neglected recently, and it is time somebody embroidered them on a banner; if nobody else will, I shall do the job myself. I am not heartless, and I shudder daily at the rising toll of death in Yugoslavia, but there is nothing I can do about it and there is nothing anybody else can do either.

When one door shuts, another opens; when one man drops a gun, another picks it up. Suppose the Luxembourg man, by sheer force of personality, commands the warring Yugoslavs to cease and desist, and suppose they do so. How long, do you suppose it will be, before north Africa or central America or Borneo or Indonesia bursts into flames?

Come, let us be selfish. Let us recognise that there will be no civil war in Britain, and give, for this relief, much thanks. It has been many centuries since the contagion touched us; muffle the bells for those who mourn, but let them sound for our good fortune.

...and moreover CRAIG BROWN

Yesterday it was reported that the chairman of the Headmasters' Conference had expressed fears that the inclusion of *The Day of the Jackal* on the list of A-level set texts would, in years to come, be followed by examinations in the works of Jackie Collins.

Some pupils may be under the illusion that, 20 years from now, a Jackie Collins set text would be easier to understand than, say, *Paradise Lost*. But this is by no means the case, as this leaked trial document makes clear:

English Literature
A-level June 2011

The life and works of
Jackie Collins

You have one hour to answer the following questions. Write your answers on one side of the paper only. You are advised to read each question carefully before embarking on your answers.

Question 1: "Ma Maison, Friday lunch. Buddy had decided to test out the pale tan Armani Jacket. Beige Slacks and matching collarless silk shirt. The look was right, expensive casual. Buddy felt free to cast an interested eye around the fashionable restaurant. There were a lot of women lunching together. Tables of them. Chic. Stylish. Beautiful. "Jason suddenly felt it his duty to give him a run-down on every famous face in the place. "You see that group of women over there, well the beautiful one with the dark hair is Mrs Johnny Carson — the devastating Joanna. And at

the next table is Louisa Moore — wife of Roger — she's such fun. And the couple in the corner..."

Stephanie Powers and Robert Wagner. Buddy interrupted. (From *Hollywood Wives* by Jacqueline Collins, 1983)

a) Compare and contrast Stephanie Powers and Robert Wagner. Stephanie Powers was a smart and expensive after-shave worn in the second half of the 20th century, compared to Robert Wagner, who was a brand of deodorant commonly to be found on tables wherever Hollywood stars were gathered.

b) What does the author mean when she speaks of "Ma Maison"? Ma Maison is Buddy's mother. She has a lot of people round for Friday lunch.

c) In your own words, why had Buddy decided to test out Beige Slacks?

Beige Slacks is an up-and-coming "star" who Buddy is keen to test out against her rival Armani Jacket for the title role in his new film. Beige Slacks and Armani Jacket are generally considered among Jackie Collins's most lifelike creations.

Question 2: "Karen was tall, with a supple tanned body, thick copper hair and carefully chiselled features. Her connections were the best, she knew everyone and everything — since, her father was George Lancaster, a giant superstar."

a) In your own words, describe Karen, paying particular atten-

tion to Collins's rich use of imagery and symbolism. Collins makes it clear through vivid use of language that Karen is not a human being but a computer constructed by expert engineers. ("Her connections were the best"). Her "hair", the author tells us, is constructed from "thick copper", in all likelihood so as to act as a conductor in the event of lightning. Elsewhere on the body of the computer, the "features" are described as "carefully chiselled", probably by the skilled giant George Lancaster. The Karen Robot is obviously an integral part of directory inquiries, knowing "everyone and everything".

Question 3: (IMPORTANT: for Advanced Collins Studies Course students only.)

"When Maralee refused to loan Elaine ten thousand dollars it was just as well because Little S Shitz failed to turn up for his second meeting which was okay because Angel would never file for divorce anyway."

a) Why did Maralee refuse Elaine?

b) Why was it "just as well" that Little S Shitz failed to turn up?

c) Who on earth are all these people anyway?

Question 4: "Hollywood Wives" is one of the most difficult texts on the English Literature course. I am bound to fail. I now realise I would have been happier taking the easy option of Beowulf. Discuss.

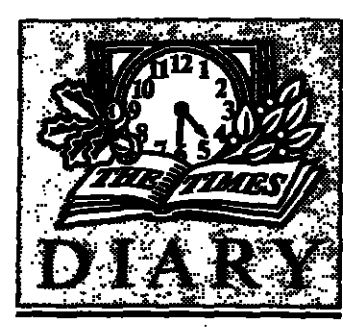
Red sales as the sun sets

WHEN empires fall, auction houses move in. The London dealers Phillips are busy gathering communist memorabilia in the wake of the Soviet coup, as Russians, desperate to rid themselves of their stalinist past, sell off their heritage for a song. The first sale takes place in November and features Soviet flags and other items.

"Collectors have already shown great interest in flags, medals, uniforms, busts of Lenin and Stalin," says Adam Livingstone, of Phillips's arms and armour department. "Like any material from a previous empire, it's of great historical interest to collectors, who are attracted to the major moments in history which leave their evidence by the way-side."

Phillips have already obtained a banner embroidered with effigies of Lenin and Stalin, priced £250-£350, from a client who was in Moscow during the coup. "We are very interested in any other material from the Soviet regime, particularly the revolution and the 1920s and 1930s," says Livingstone. "In five to ten years time, this will be a very big collectors' field."

Also in the Phillips warehouse is a head of Stalin, produced in 1947 by the state porcelain factory in what was Leningrad with an estimated value of £2,000-£3,000. Much of the Soviet memorabilia seems to be filtering through thanks to westerners and foreign correspondents returning with communist mementoes picked up for next to nothing in Moscow. Peter Millar, a writer on Soviet affairs, recently returned from Moscow with a red satin proletarian flag fringed with gold. "I found it in the Izmailovo market in



Moscow," he says. "I'd hate to tell you what it cost, it was so cheap. But it was a month's salary for a Russian."

● During a recent meeting of an EC agriculture committee, a French speaker called for the Community to show "la sagesse des Normands". The simultaneous translation provided for the English members of the committee had the French calling for Norman Wisdom to help sort out the EC's problems. Who said the EC was little more than an elaborate pantomime?

Celebrated date

TO mark today's palindromic date — 19.9.1991 — what is believed to be the English language's longest palindromic narrative poem is being set to music by a group of palindromic musicians. The poem is by Roy Dean, who also holds the record for the fastest completion of the *The Times* crossword. Each of its 72 lines is a self-contained palindromic and the first couplet reads:

Sleepless evening, nine. Vessel peels,
Sleek cats yell at alley, stack eels

"It's about an old man drinking and reminiscing in a sleazy dockside cafe," says Dean. His verse is being put to music by a group of

musicians and composers known as Panama (after the famous palindrome: "A man, a plan, a canal — Panama"). Dean approached the group after they appeared at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts. "When they play their music backwards you get marvellous cadences you don't normally hear," he says. Alas, their joint work is not quite ready: a premiere is planned instead for November when there is another palindrome — albeit contrived by omitting the century — of 19.11.91.



High table

DR Brian Mawhinney, the Northern Ireland minister of state, missed his lunch yesterday because the lift was out of action. Before readers wonder why he was too idle to use the stairs, it should be pointed out that the minister does have his leg in plaster following a crickcric accident.

Mawhinney was at the Stormont hotel in Belfast for an important contract signing when he found the lift not working, due to that ubiquitous catch-all "refurbishment". As a result, he sat out lunch in his ministerial car, catching up on his red boxes. However, the minister was eventually forced to hobble up stairs for the first-floor signing ceremony.

Balkan delights

WITH an inimitable sense of timing, Yugotours has just produced its winter holiday brochure. "Yugoslav nightlife is great fun and reasonably priced," it declares, which is one way of pointing out that evenings are frequently enlivened by the deafening roar as the Croats and Yugoslavs slug it out.

But for those fainthearts who are not convinced about Yugoslavia this winter, Yugotours has taken out a special insurance policy — "for those unforeseeable difficulties that may occur in which you may suffer injury or death during your holiday arising from an activity which is not part of the holiday arrangements."

● The Liberal Democrats believe Paddy Ashdown is cuddly and have launched Paddybear as a £19.95 Christmas stocking filler. The bear is supposed to raise money for the election campaign. "You can buy a mummy bear for £12.95 to go with it," says a Lib Dem spokesman. How does the party committed to equality explain the difference in the price tag?

سكنا من الاصل



STATE OF THE UNION

The disparity between democracy in Scotland and that in Westminster is so gross as to be indefensible. That the separatist Scottish Nationalist Party, whose conference opened yesterday in Inverness, has failed to capitalise on this is a reflection only of its ineptitude, not on the weakness of the case for greater devolution.

Not surprisingly, many Scots are wondering why, if it is right for the Balkans (or Georgia) to break with Moscow in the name of national democracy and autonomy, Scotland should not enjoy at least some greater independence from London. The two cases are not the same, but the freedom to choose not to be ruled by overlarge, remote and centralised government is an emerging theme of the 1990s. Only 17 per cent of Scots regard the present constitutional deal as satisfactory. Sooner or later, Scotland will demand devolution and get it.

A modest Conservative victory in the next general election would worsen rather than relieve this tension. Current polls suggest further Tory losses in Scotland rather than gains. If the Tories lose the coming by-election at Kincardine and Deeside, the number of Scottish Conservative MPs at Westminster will drop from ten to nine out of a total of 72 Scottish seats. If the Liberal Democrats win it, as they are expected to, their Scottish strength will move the opposite way, from nine to ten. The party governing the United Kingdom would have sunk to being the third largest party in Scotland in terms of Members of Parliament. Labour has 48 Scottish members, and now looks very much like the "natural party of government" north of the border.

Tory leaders are happy just as long as Scotland is governed by them from Westminster, along with England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and are blind to the damage to democratic principles. They take false comfort from the incompetence of the SNP, first in dallying so long with chauvinist

socialism, then in being out-manoeuvred on constitutional reform by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, who caught the popular mood with last autumn's Scottish Constitutional Convention. Both those parties contributed to that forum, while the SNP and the Conservatives stood aloof.

From the convention emerged a proposal for a national Scottish assembly, which both the parties taking part have adopted. This would give the Scots a fair measure of self-government, but they would still be within the union and still ultimately subject to Westminster (where their present over-representation must end). The Scots may react cautiously to the extreme demands of the SNP — such as independence by 1993 which the party called for yesterday — but this does not mean they like the status quo. Even most Tory voters want it changed. And although the constitution is not quite top of the Scottish political agenda, sensible steps towards greater self-government have proved attractive to voters. Thus the SNP may bang the nationalist drum, but it is Labour and the Liberal Democrats which benefit.

Some of the attraction to Scottish voters of Labour's constitutional moderation, however, may depend on anticipation of a Labour victory in the general election. A victory for John Major would dash such hopes and be good news for a more radical separatism, suggesting to many Scots that there is no respite from "alien" Tory rule short of leaving the union.

The best way for them to neutralise these sentiments is for the Conservatives to take the maintenance of the union more seriously and impose on the Scots the duties as well as the delights of devolution — even if (perhaps especially if) that means Labour rule from Edinburgh. Separatism is not central to the Scottish political tradition. But its appeal will strengthen the longer its opposite, "democratic centralism", is treated as the essence of United Kingdom government.

HARD MAN OF GEORGIA

Nationalism is a powerful and complex political motivation. It was the key to the breakup of the Soviet empire and is proving the key to the emerging politics of its component states. Nowhere is this more true than in the Caucasian republic of Georgia. Having elected a nationalist intellectual and dissident, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, as their president, most Georgians were delighted when he declared independence in April and no less so when he defied the Soviet coup. Now Georgians are being asked to support his harsh measures against opposition leaders, demonstrators and the press. They may be less delighted, but they may have no choice.

Ever since their kingdom was annexed by Russia in 1801, the Georgians have waited to recapture independence. Does their liberator now mean to make himself their dictator? If he does, the hopes of two centuries hang in the balance. Georgia under the tsars was obliged to eke out an existence on the southern extremity of a vast empire. Despite acquiring the status of a Union republic under Stalin, the yoke on Georgia grew heavier throughout the rule of this their most notorious son.

More recently a second Georgian, Eduard Shevardnadze, achieved eminence on the Soviet stage. As Georgian party chief under Brezhnev, he stifled dissent. As foreign minister under Mikhail Gorbachev, he was more liberal but did little for his homeland. Only when protest erupted in 1989, with the slaughter of a score of demonstrators in Tbilisi, did Mr Shevardnadze return. But he was too late to quash the nationalist upsurge that carried Mr Gamsakhurdia's Free Georgia movement to power a year ago.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia grew up in a pious culture of suppressed nationhood, in which secret hopes were fostered by memories of past glory. His father was a man of letters. Zviad, though steeped in patriotic literature, learned and then taught English. The KGB first came for him when he was 17. For years

he resisted them, but when under arrest in 1977 for monitoring human rights during Mr Shevardnadze's administration, Zviad Gamsakhurdia cracked. He obtained a more lenient prison sentence at the price of a public retraction and ritual confession.

As president, he has tried to compensate for this blot upon his nationalist credentials by giving rivals of access to the media. Mr Gamsakhurdia's autocratic style had alienated foreign opinion even before the police shooting of demonstrators in Tbilisi a fortnight ago. His harsh treatment of the Ossetian minority in the north has encouraged pressure for its secession. He hates Mr Shevardnadze, of whose ambitions he remains suspicious, and he understandably hesitated to join in a new "union of sovereign republics".

Mr Gamsakhurdia is not yet a dictator. His arrest of senior opposition figures this week may have been a panicky response to the breakdown of order in the capital. Parliament is due to meet today. Besides debating economic reforms, it is due to set a date for parliamentary elections. Though Georgy Chanturia, one of the president's leading opponents, is now in detention, his demands for faster privatisation, land reform and freedom of the press would mostly be met if the proposals now before parliament become law. After 190 years of colonial rule, this is a sort of progress.

Georgia has never enjoyed democracy before, and compared to the Baltic states or even Russia it has had little exposure to Western influence. Mr Gamsakhurdia remains a product of the Soviet Union and like many former dissidents may find it hard to shake off the intolerance in which he was schooled, to adopt a pluralism of which he has no experience. He is a cosmopolitan yet also a nationalist, like many emerging leaders all over post-communist Europe. Their politics may not always be to Western tastes, but the West will have to live with them for the time being.

CULLING TO CONSERVE

The news that Zimbabwe is starting to cull thousands of elephants has made complex a slogan that has, until recently, seemed blissfully simple: save the elephant! Elephants are to be culled to protect them, says Zimbabwe. The cull started on Tuesday in the Sengwa National Park, where 250 elephants were killed. In the end, 10,000 or more elephants may die in Zimbabwe. It has more elephants within its borders than at any time this century and they are destroying its ecology.

Other countries want to reopen the ivory trade, to give peasant farmers some incentive to protect, indeed farm, elephants rather than exterminate them to stop them wrecking crops and trees. The hunting lobby similarly campaigns for the development of big-game shooting as a way of protecting other threatened species, such as the rhinoceros and snow leopard. Without hunting, the grouse, ptarmigan and capercaillie might well have vanished from Britain by now. Nothing helps the survival of a species as much as a stuffed trophy above a hunter's mantelpiece. And nothing so enrages the wildlife lobby.

Recent correspondence in *The Times* about the fate of the bitters has illustrated the differences between absolutists and relativists in conservation. Modern biology has deepened understanding of the "ecological tree", reinforcing the view of relativists that the balance of nature is not a constant but by state now being upset for the first time by modern technology. Species have come and gone since the dawn of time. The mam-

moths of North America, like the moas of New Zealand, made possible the expansion and development of Indian and Maori civilisations long before the latter were overwhelmed by Western colonists. New Zealand exists quite well without the moa.

Yet biology is sending out other more alarming messages. The ecological tree may seem robust, but technological change may have side effects that extend from its branches to its roots. Just as the removal of forests can lead to floods and desertification, so the loss of certain species of bird can lead to insect infestation. Every animal may not have a crucial role in the survival of humans, but animals as a whole do more than enhance our awareness of life itself. They are a constant reminder of where we began and whence a careless disregard of the environment might return us. Hence the alarm with which we should view any extinction. One day it could be ours.

The culling of elephants is therefore not a simple issue. Like the similar debate about whales, it shows that no part of the globe can any longer be regarded as a wilderness. It is rather a vast park, requiring the maintenance of a delicate balance of species and their interests, of economics and ecology. Within this park, many assumptions are having to be abandoned, including the belief clung to by so many that killing animals can never be right. Humans may not need elephants to survive. Elephants unquestionably do need humans. Biological choices are becoming as hard to make as political ones.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Time for church divisions to listen to each other

From the Archbishop of Canterbury
Sir, "When I use a word," said Humpty Dumpty to Alice, "it means just what I choose it to mean." This cavalier use of language seems to be spreading in the Church of England.

The idea that the church is divided into two warring factions labelled "liberal" and "traditional", as suggested by the Archbishop of York in his recent sermon (report, September 9), is a case in point. Where is the "liberal" church? Where are these "liberal" bishops? What are the grounds of his prediction that within five years our liturgies will be addressing God as "she"?

My mind flashed back over my brief experience as Archbishop. In early June the bishops had a residential conference studying and praying about our common mission together. Yes, we are a diverse group of people representing many different shades of opinion but we are passionately committed to the proclamation of the gospel and fully convinced that our comprehensive-ness in the Church of England is authentically Christian.

As someone deeply committed to a traditional faith anchored in scripture, the catholic creeds and expressed in the 39 articles, I do not find myself discouraged by the contemporary Church of England.

But there is a deeper issue that bothers me. We are not the kind of church that sends unpopular leaders into Outer Mongolia if they speak unpalatable things. We are, however, the kind of church that expects leaders to act and speak responsibly. It is ironic that the Archbishop's

text included the words "not provoking one another".

The Church of England is not in a state of terminal decline. We are at work with other churches in presenting Christ as Lord. We live that faith in loving service to others. The fierce and passionate commitment many of us have to different expressions of that faith shows not a church in death-throes but a living church which still has a lot of work to do in establishing that inner unity so essential to such a mission.

So instead of polemics, the dialogue of the deaf, let us start to listen to each other. You never know, we might just hear God speaking through people with whom we disagree.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CANTUAR,
Lambeth Palace, SE1.

From the Archdeacon of York
Sir, Had David Hunt *et al.* (September 7) read the full text of my sermon in York Minster, they would have realised that my vision of a comprehensive Church of England able to cope with difference mirrors their own.

In my sermon, I was not concerned with the issue of women priests, but I am aware that the process of debate on this — and, in some dioceses, the treatment of opponents — has produced nothing but division and bitterness. Whenever I attend the General Synod or its policy committee, there seems to be yet another contentious issue waiting in the wings, and I do not relish the thought of spending the next ten years embroiled in argument and strife which can only

damage the church's mission, especially in a decade of evangelism.

Indeed many critics of my sermon (though not, I have to say, David Hunt) have simply proved that those who do challenge the assumptions of the liberal establishment find that reasoned argument is countered by abuse, by suggestions of personality disorder, and by calls for resignation. This, if it continues, can in the end only produce real schism.

As I said in my sermon, the Church of England is worth saving. But if that can only be achieved by some measure of disunity, by a "church within a church", then better that than the diversion of energy in a decade of bitter conflict and the "progressive alienation" of loyal church folk whose only crime is to hold to the traditional faith and practice of the church.

That this alienation is already happening is evidenced by the hundreds of letters of support which I have received from people who either feel they have been driven out, or else are holding out on membership by their finger-tips. I have been astonished by their numbers and moved by their stories.

It is high time that bishops took note of that alienation. And if a "church within a church" is to be avoided — and no one hopes for that more than I do — then the General Synod must give urgent consideration to John Gummer's plea for a ten-year moratorium on further contentious debate.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
7 Lang Road,
Bishopthorpe, York.

Restoring fortunes of science funding

From the Astronomer Royal

Sir, I read with pleasure of the government's confidence that the economy is coming out of recession and that economic growth will resume its upward path before the end of the year (report, September 14). The time has come, therefore, to return to the problem of science funding.

The consequences of last year's inadequate Science Budget allocation have been spelled out in detail — the impending closure of the nuclear structure facility, at the Science and Engineering Research Council's Daresbury laboratory would have been unthinkable a year ago and still should be today.

Despite the condemnation by many bodies of what has in fact been the continuing underfunding of science over many years, government ministers have persisted in maintaining that there has been an increase in real terms over the last 11 years. Time and again it has been spelled out to them that their statistics are incomplete and misleading; time and again they produce the same reply.

The facts are simple. Government spending on the science base has declined from 0.35 per cent of GDP in 1981 to 0.28 per cent now, and is now lower than that of most of our competitors. This is not the way to build a thriving economy.

With the recent upturn in our economic fortunes a start must surely be made on restoring the fortunes of science, too, and with it the confidence of British scientists. Two years ago the Science Budget was increased in real terms and the outlook then was bright. Can we now look forward to rejoicing that modestly upward track?

Yours eld WOLFENDALE,
AROLD WOLFENDALE,
University of Durham,
Department of Physics,
Science Laboratories,
South Road, Durham.
September 14.

Predicting inflation

From Mr John Nugge

Sir, I have just been offered some life insurance by one of our largest and most reputable insurance companies. The scheme contains the sentence: "To keep pace with inflation your benefits and premiums will automatically increase by 5 per cent annually."

If even our financial companies are conditioned to expect inflation to continue at a regular 5 per cent a year, what hope is there for the government's plans for price stability? Or for monetary union with countries such as Germany, where 5 per cent inflation is a cause for alarm, not for pronouncing inflation as "licked" (report, September 14).

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NUGGE,
22 Haldon Road, SW18,
September 17.

Cathedral restoration

From the Dean of Ely

Sir, Thank you for your spectacular photograph (September 11) which captures the magic of our cathedral's 14th-century Octagon. During 1992 we shall be marking the completion of the Octagon work, but the Dean and Chapter would like to add the footnote that we shall not be marking "the end" of restoration work, as the caption suggests. Ely has undertaken extensive repairs in recent years, but more must follow. The task is never done.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HIGGINS,
Chapter House,
The College,
Ely, Cambridgeshire.
September 11.

Kinnock and the Labour challenge

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, Your leader (September 16) heralds a "repackaging" of Mr Kinnock with some commitment to adhere to some specific policies. The government's green paper proposals (*Industrial Relations in the 1990s*, CM 1602) have been on the table for discussion since July. These set a positive course in implementation of two principles:

1. Prevention of organised industrial action — unlawful under extant law — to disrupt public services by confining to the consumer an individual right of action.
2. Prevention of aspects of malpractice which include giving notice of industrial action before the result of the ballot is known; misuse of voting papers in ballots for executive elections; and misuse of funds.

The crucial question is not perhaps where Mr Kinnock stands as a matter of commitment, but whether the Labour party could deliver any "repackaging" which retained the substance of the legal reforms introduced by the Thatcher administration.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY,
2 King's Bench Walk, Temple, ECA.

From Mrs Renée Short
Sir, I worked with Neil Kinnock for 17 years out of my 24 in the House and for some ten years on the national executive committee of the Labour party. There are not many leaders of any political party who could have carried through successfully changes of policy so badly needed in the Labour party, including ridding it of Militant, from whose disloyal activities many of us suffered. You attack him for changing policies and cultivating "the moderate ground". In any other leader you would call this prudent and praise him for it.

I had my differences with Neil Kinnock from time to time but never failed to recognise his political judgment. If, as he claims, "38 per cent of voters say he puts them off Labour", presumably 62 per cent are not put off. This is not at all a bad record.

Your prescription for a detailed shopping list of desirable policies for Mr Kinnock seems a clear recipe for disaster. In our secretive system of government the opposition is certainly not allowed to see the books and therefore should not enter into

binding detailed obligations for the future.

You say, "It is not Mr Kinnock's fault that the recession appears to be bottoming out". But we are still very much in the worst recession for years; there is a higher level of unemployment and in our towns and cities the signs are clear for all to see: factories are silent, offices are shut down and rows of empty shops are now defined by bill-posters. Mr Major has no remedy. Neil Kinnock has.

Yours faithfully,
RENEE SHORT,
70 Westminster Gardens,
Marshall Street, SW1.

From Mr Sydney Shenton
Sir, Your advice to Mr Kinnock is both sensible and generous. It is to be hoped he and his colleagues will pay attention, for anything that can serve to improve the efficiency of political performance in the country is both welcome and needed.

Despite the excellent showing of the Conservative party under John Major the fact remains that we have suffered since 1979 a continuation of the nation's remorseless relative economic decline. Perhaps you should now also tender equally necessary and sensible advice to the prime minister.

Instead of concentrating so much upon inflation reduction could not equivalent attention be paid to reducing unemployment, so socially and economically damaging? A host of measures could be enacted to assist manufacturing industry, to encourage "Buy British" policies and to abandon the excess of free-market policies no other country even considers.

The time has come for Mr Major to disperse the ideological fog that has enveloped economic policies for so long and for a fully-fledged return to traditional Conservative empiricism.

Sincerely,
SYDNEY SHENTON,
95 The Crescent,
Davenport, Stockport, Cheshire.

From Mr Michael Cloughton
Sir, Mr Kinnock claims to be "a very good, winning captain of his team". But surely his record is played 1 — lost 1.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CLOUGHTON,
Widcon, Midstone Road,
Ashford, Kent.

Spies apart

From Mr Christopher Whiteside

Sir, The difference between Blake and Gordievsky (Mr Perkins's letter, September 16) is that Blake betrayed a free country while Gordievsky betrayed the KGB.

Now that citizens of what was the USSR are free to express an opinion, I have the impression that many of them do not equate their interests with those of the regime which Blake assisted and Gordievsky renounced.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER WHITESIDE,
41 Queens Crescent,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Longest reign

From the Reverend M. T. Coombe

Sir, In "No cakes and ale for royal event" (September 13) the Queen is described as the "longest-serving head of state in the Western world". King Baudouin of Belgium ascended his throne in 1951, but admittedly abdicated for a day in April 1990, so does not qualify, but Prince Rainier of Monaco took over in 1949, so must qualify before our Queen.

Yours sincerely,
M. T. COOMBE,
8a Furze Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.
September 13.

Disadvantages of two-speed Europe

From the Director of the European Movement

Sir, While the prime minister last week outlined his vision of an enlarged European Community open to the new democracies of central and Eastern Europe (report, September 13), Mr Laporte was giving the British support to the Dutch proposals for allowing a two-speed approach to monetary union. Not only does this, once again, suggest there is a dichotomy between "widening" and "deepening" but it fails to take sufficient account of the political consequences that would derive from a two-speed Europe.

It is precisely the Community's determination to move forward collectively on key issues such as its commitment to full economic and monetary union that is the magnet of attraction for the rest of Europe. The formal division of the Community into more and less successful economies would unquestionably be reflected in the political relationships between member states. It would be naive to assume that those in the second tier would command the same authority as the inner circle.

Whereas the need to harmonise key economic indicators, including interest and inflation rates and budget deficits, is essential, a disciplined approach to EMU is considerably more likely to be achieved if a Community deadline is set than if it is left as an objective in competition with the many other priorities facing democratic governments seeking re-election.

For ten years it was easier in Britain to manipulate the economy for electoral purposes than to face up to the discipline of life in the exchange-rate mechanism. British reluctance to accept the principle of early monetary union not only shows up in stark relief our continuing economic failures but again puts off the evil hour when the underlying causes will have to be dealt with.

There may well need to be a compromise between the Delors and the Dutch proposals but if Mr Major is serious about his commitment to Britain having "at the heart of Europe", it is vital that he accepts a clear and binding timetable for the achievement of full monetary union.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LUFF, Director,
The European Movement,
Europe House,
1 Whitehall Place, SW1.
September 16.

New democracies

From Mr Anthony Cavendish

Sir, I read the letter from my friend, Mr E. Donnell (September 16), in an aircraft returning from Eastern Europe, my fifteenth visit in 12 months.

Mr Donnell rightly points out how different are the circumstances of the defeated countries after the war and those of the new "democracies" of central and Eastern Europe, but there is another difference.

The young people in the defeated countries after the war were subdued, tired and deeply affected by the millions of their contemporaries who had lost their lives in the war. Today, the young in the former communist countries are aggressive, impatient and educated by television. They want their cake today and they will not wait.

I do not suggest we should "rush in with an enormous aid package" but the new democracies will not wait 15 years.

Yours truly,
ANTHONY CAVENDISH,
Lower Hill, Hampshire.
September 17.

Bail restrictions

From his Honour Peter Mason, QC

Sir, It does not follow, as Stephen Shaw suggests (September 17), that because a defendant is given a non-custodial sentence he should have been granted bail. This widely held fallacy should be exposed. It is the duty of the sentencing judge when selecting the proper sentence to take into account (among other things) the fact that the defendant has already spent time in custody. This fact in fairness may, and often does, tilt the balance in favour of a non-custodial disposal. Such disposal, however, is far from proving that a refusal of bail was justified.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASON,
Cardiff Crown Court,
The Law Courts,
Cardiff, Cardiff.
September 17.

Buying in space

From Mr S. R. Lancelyn Green

Sir, As most readers will be aware a light year is a measure of distance, not of time (letter, September 17). Should, however, the US government decide the Mir-2 is a vehicle not a property, then if it does not wish to pay \$700 million for unlimited mileage for a fixed period of time it might do well to sign up at this rate per light year. At 8,385 miles per dollar this could be quite a bargain. Incidentally, how do you work out the mileage charge on a geo-stationary orbit?

Yours sincerely,
S. R. LANCELYN GREEN,
Poulton Hall, Poulton Lancelyn,
Bebington, Wirral.
September 18.

Chabrier lightly executed

DONALD COOPER



Crowd pleaser: Anthony Mee as King Ouf and Mary Hegarty as the princess

JOHN HIGGINS

thony Ward has designed some fantastic costumes, mainly in red, white and black, and visual gags. Jeremy Sams provides a pointed, singable, and mildly suggestive translation. The whole thing swings along at a tremendous rate and this little-known opera could well provide Opera North with a popular success story.

But there is another side to Chabrier. Earlier in the week, Lloyd was talking to Hilary Finch on these pages about the "great swathes of sentimentality" in the piece. In her efforts to gather in the biggest possible harvest of laughs she ignored this particular part of the field.

Lazuli, the boy with a sackful of cheap cosmetics and a head full of romantic notions, is a delectable role, given the right mezzo. Colette Alliot-Lugaz proved it in the Lyons Opera production, seen later in Paris and Edinburgh, which brought *L'Etoile* back to public notice. For Opera North, Pamela Helen Stephen offers a rougher and more boyish figure, whose brassy Scottish accent recalls unpleasant memories of Muriel Gray. The comedy is fine, the music gives the title to the opera is not. Mary Hegarty as the Princess who is the object of Lazuli's dreams is much nearer the mark.

The successes come from the caricatures on stage, led by Anthony

accords ill with his previous frantic misogyny and I do not know what to make of it.

The drama unfolds on Richard Hudson's blood-red floor, marbled like a giant's bathroom tile and set about with a few comfortable red sofas. One way to look for understanding is to consider Aphrodite and Artemis as expressions of human affections or instincts. Serban appears to encourage this approach by frequently bringing the two goddesses on to the stage; the mortals are aware of their presence and sometimes address them directly.

But an interpretation along these lines breaks down on the contrivances of the plot - Hippolytos keeps silent beneath his father's curses because of an oath he never saw him swear. Even more damaging is the remark by Artemis, "We have a rule: no god crosses another". By placing this unreal barrier between instincts, Euripides dilutes the play's psychological truth.

What remains is a play made up of arresting scenes between characters variously agitated by sexual desire. The thrill of the chase, as expressed by Duncan Bell's muscular Hippolytos, is displaced sexuality: he pants at the remembered joy of killing, and his

later rage against womankind (strongly emphasised in Lan's version) brings an outspoken passion at last into the play.

The passion Janet Suzman feels as Phaidra remains for a long time unspoken, but she holds her voice in fierce control almost throughout the performance. Tempestas are raging within; we know that from her initial babbling and can surmise it from the way she shoves her hands through her hair. But it is a performance which hints at strong emotion rather than making it explicit.

The way Serban moves his characters, fussing around each other and wondering whether to exit, gives the action an atmosphere of real life observed. The Nurse of Brenda Bruce (grand to see her in a play again) is a splendid creation of a matron out of her depth and misapplying worldly wisdom.

A pawky Theseus by Ian McDiarmid and a truly aghast Messenger from Ewan Hooper brings colour to the closing scene, but the play remains an exotic specimen from a remote age, its theme of misplaced love the private dilemma of a long dead family.

JEREMY KINGSTON

L'Etoile Grand, Leeds

JOLLYTY and high jinks are the order of the day in Chabrier's *L'Etoile*, opening production of the Opera North season. King Ouf has to find a victim for his annual execution, a crowd pleaser which keeps the kingdom together, and has the bad luck to pick on Lazuli, an itinerant pedlar whose destiny is closely linked to his own by the star of the title. When Lazuli goes, Ouf's death must follow shortly, together with that of his resident astrologer, Siroco, who forecasts the whole thing.

But fear not. Nobody is going to die to Chabrier's lifting song, with its sharp parodies of Donizetti and Ambroise Thomas, any more than there are in *The Mikado*. The two operettas have more in common than mere execution: Sullivan was not averse to musical mockery of the Grand Masters of Opera.

That certainly is the line taken by the director, Phyllida Lloyd. Off the audience are whisked to a garishly lit world of grotesques situated somewhere midway between G&S and Toytown. Favourite designer An-



Fierce control: Serban as Phaidra

Hippolytos Almeida

WITH the timely help of individual and corporate sponsors, this lively Islington theatre embarks on a two-author season (next month, Pinter) with the play that won Euripides the first prize in 428 BC.

What is there in Greek tragedy for the modern theatre-goer? Greek-speakers say that the poetry Euripides gives to his protagonists, and especially to his chorus, is exceptionally lovely, but most of us must hear it in translation.

Without either the original poetry or the original religion, we are left with the story: Phaidra's doomed love for her woman-baiting stepson. What does that give us to take home, brood over and perhaps use to improve our own lives?

The calamitous events have been contrived by Aphrodite, who is piqued that Hippolytos ignores her. "Sex, to his mind, stinks," she complains, in this free translation by David Lan. The young prince prefers to go hunting with the chaste goddess

Artemis, and to keep his body in prime condition for sporting events of the most improving kind. Hippolytos is a pure person indeed, Euripides suggests, and we must all agree. So the present production - by the Romanian director Andrei Serban - must be aiming at revealing some secret of psychology when he makes Hippolytos stoop over the dead Phaidra to apply the kiss of life. This

can call "down home", likeable, intimate, natural. She also has a personality you can hardly fail to find sympathetic. It works well for the *Annie Get Your Gun* numbers such as the title song and the deliciously bluesy "Moonshine Lullaby" which shows Criswell can float a half-tone as well as a full one.

For the first half, Porter selections, a slightly less natural, more stagey manner might have helped create a dramatic context, but "Always True in My Fashion" with Criswell sprawling over the piano is splendidly raunchy. She can also rise (boy, can she) to the passionate romantic numbers such as the Chopinesque "So in Love" and "Blow, Gabriel, Blow".

In the second half, her agile pianist Kevin Farrell is joined by bass guitar, drums and synthesizer for songs bridging the gap between musical and rock. Often this marriage results in bland sentimental music which has neither the wit of the classics nor Criswell's sexual energy. Criswell, incidentally, has a wonderful anthology of country songs, including "If You Were to Know the Beer Cold, Put it Next to My Ex-Wife's Hair".

HARRY EYRES

Doin' What Comes Naturally Shaw

AS a child in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Kim Criswell was seduced by Julie Andrews. The fates were against her, however: she grew a flashing mane of red hair (this must come naturally), a big bonny smile and a voice of rasping power and pizzazz which makes Andrews sound like a Fairy Liquid advertisement. One of the funniest moments in this finely sung, warmly presented medley of musical numbers from Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and more recent composers comes when Criswell re-enacts a scene from her high school production of *The Sound of Music*, with dialogue in small-town Tennessee drawl followed by a rendition of "My favourite things" in pure, whiter than white Andrews.

At this point, having made a dramatic entry, she high ups in the auditorium, Criswell is sitting perched on the stage chatting to the audience as if she has known them for years. Her disarming manner is what Amer-

icans call "down home", likeable, intimate, natural. She also has a personality you can hardly fail to find sympathetic. It works well for the *Annie Get Your Gun* numbers such as the title song and the deliciously bluesy "Moonshine Lullaby" which shows Criswell can float a half-tone as well as a full one.

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HARRY EYRES

Giselle Sadler's Wells

JUST before the final curtain falls on Moscow City Ballet's *Giselle*, Victor Smirnov-Golovanov's production suddenly comes up with a small surprise. Only last month Peter Schaudius was talking in this paper of two possible endings: the original 19th century one, where Albrecht, saved from death by Giselle's love, is led away back to his courtly duties; and our sentimental modern preference for him to remain grieving alone by her grave.

Golovanov goes a third possibility. Albrecht goes back to real life, but sadly and alone, changed by his experiences during the ghostly night.

Other than that, the staging is strictly traditional. That leads to a slightly disappointing Act I, where the impression is of aiming at a big elaborate production with far too limited resources. But in Act II the quality of the dancing comes into its own, not least with the lovely, lithe style of the corps de ballet.

The queen of these apparitions is admirably danced by the company's leading woman, Natalia Yakovleva. She has the tall, commanding physique, facially a little like the former Bolshoi star, Maya Plisetskaya, whom she also recalls by the clean strength of her movements. (Yakovleva's unscheduled performance of *Swan Lake*, last week, replacing Yelena Pankova, also provided a clear, bold and able example of that ballet.)

Galina Momenova's Giselle is familiar from her *King of the Hens* guest performance fitted well into Moscow City Ballet's production, especially for the extremely genteel manner of her dancing in Act II. Sergei Gorbachev makes a good, responsive Albrecht for her. Natalia Pavova's idea of a stage surrounded by trees in autumnal leaf for the first half and with bare branches for the second is not bad, but the backdrops, covered respectively with puddles and with crosses, are bizarre, and the cottages in the opening scene had to be pushed back almost out of sight to leave enough room on the stage for dancing.

JOHN PERCIVAL

NEW RELEASES

CABEZA DE VACA: Bold, jarring Mexican epic about a Spanish conquistador captured by Indians. Director, Nicolas Esquivel. Metro (01-437 0757).

ONLY THE LONELY (12): John and Mary as a bachelor cop finding love and trying to escape his mother's agonising strings. Liable romantic comedy from Home Alone director Chris Columbus. With Michael O'Hare. Cannon (01-437 0757).

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BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 Breakfast News begins with *Business Breakfast* which has the latest financial and business news from around the world followed at 6.55 by *Nicholas Witchell* and *Laurel* presenting news and topical reports, with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins.
9.05 Perfect Strangers, American comedy series. *The Little Train to Lynton*. The first of two programmes about the Barnstaple to Lynton line in north Devon. It opened in 1898. The 19½ mile scenic route took an hour-and-a-half to cover over tracks that were only two feet wide. It closed in 1935, but former passengers recall the glory days with the help of archive film (r).
10.00 News, regional news and weather. *10.05 Playdays* (s) 10.25 *Raggy Ann and Andy*. Animated adventures of two rag dolls.
11.00 News, regional news and weather. *11.05 Our House*. American sitcom. Comedy series (r) 11.55 *Reviving Antiques*. John de Lancie, with advice on cleaning velvet, a tapestry-covered footstool and an embroidered vest.
12.00 News, regional news and weather. *12.05 Polar Bear Alert*. A documentary about the town on the Hudson Bay coast which unwillingly plays host to migrating polar bears. *12.55 Regional News* and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather.
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) 1.50 *Four Squares*. General knowledge knockout quiz game hosted by John Sachs (s).
2.15 Golf. Live coverage of the round of the Epson grand prix from St Pierre Golf and Country club, Chesham. The top 54 in the Order of Merit are joined by 18 players with special invitations to battle for a total prize fund of £450,000. The commentators are Peter Alliss, Bruce Ritchie, Alex Hogg, Clive Clark and Nick Faldo.
3.50 Fireman Sam. Animated series (r) 4.05 *The All New Popeye Show*. Cartoon double bill (r) 4.20 *The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse* (r) 4.35 *Alfonso Bonzo*. Episode five of the six-part comedy drama about a boy with a facility to swap at will (r) (s).
4.55 Newsweek. Juliet Morris and Krishnan Guru-Murthy report as Japan's leading children's choir, the 100-strong Little Singers of Tokyo, meet England's prize-winning choir. *5.05 Blue Peter*. Sister Chesney Hawkes performs his new single "Secrets of the Heart". Presented by Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane Louise-Jordan. (Ceefax).
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster. Six O'Clock News with Anne Ford and Chris Lowe. Weather.
6.30 Regional News and weather. Northern Ireland: Neighbours.
7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Nicky Campbell.
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s).
8.00 'Allo 'Allo. The French Resistance farce continues with René (Gordon Kaye) in line for a medal from the Germans for collaboration and a bullet from the communists for being a traitor. Along the way, there are all the familiar jokes (r).
8.30 Waiting For Gae. Michael Atkin's perceptive comedy series about two eccentric residents of a retirement village, played to a hit by Stephanie Cole and Graham Crowden. (Ceefax) (s).
9.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative party.
9.10 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather.



Talking heads: Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones (8.40pm)

9.40 Smith and Jones. The first of a series of highlights chosen by Mel and Griff from their previous series. This week's topics include motor racing, the police, taking the "organism", the *After Dark* discussion about death, children and the London school of ironing. (Ceefax).
10.00 Question Time introduced by Peter Sissons. The guests are Sara Parkin of the Green party and MPs Dr David Owen, William Waldegrave and Jack Straw.
11.10 Capital News. Robust drama series set in the offices of a Washington newspaper, starring Lloyd Bridges as the editor Jo Jo Turner. This week Redmond (William Russ) and Anne (Helen Slater) are assigned to cover the story of a young boy trapped in a tunnel. They discover that a tabloid reporter has done a deal with the poor lad's mother for the exclusive rights to the story.

11.55 Weather
NB: (s) indicates stereo

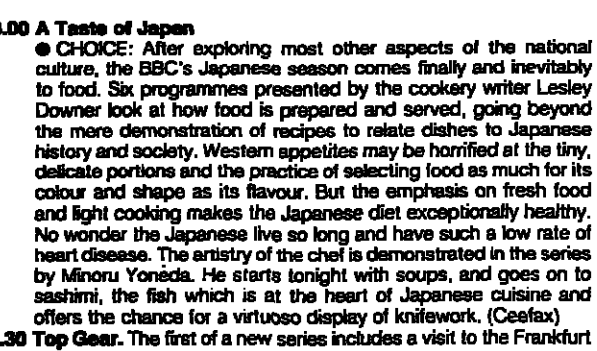
ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 As London except: 6.10pm-6.40 *Superman* 6.55-7.00 *Anglia News* 10.55 *Home Sweet Home* 11.20 *Prisoner*. Cell Block H 12.25 *Alfred Hitchcock* 12.55-1.10 *Comedy Stars*
BORDER
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Home and Away* 5.50 *Lookaround* Thursday 6.30-6.40 *Stockbusters* 10.50 *Scottish Frontiers* on Medicine 11.20 *Prisoner*. Cell Block H 12.15 *Pop Profile* 12.35 *The Sun Also Rises* 2.20 *America's Top Ten* 2.50 *Videothon* 3.20 *Alfred Hitchcock* 3.50-4.00 *Case of the Stuttering Bishop*
CENTRAL
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Blockbusters* 6.55-7.00 *Central News* 7.20-7.30 *1st Night* 10.50 *Family Ride* 11.20 *Alfred Hitchcock* 11.45 *First Night* 12.35 *The Heat of the Night* 1.30 *Video View* 2.30 *Books by My Side* 2.50 *Top Ten* 3.30 *Brangas Beat* 3.50 *Raw Power* 4.20-5.30 *Jobs*
GRANADA
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Blockbusters* 6.55-7.00 *Granada Tonight* 10.50 *Family Ride* 11.20 *Alfred Hitchcock* 11.45 *First Night* 12.35 *The Heat of the Night* 1.30 *Video View* 2.30 *Books by My Side* 2.50 *Top Ten* 3.30 *Brangas Beat* 3.50 *Raw Power* 4.20-5.30 *Jobs*

6.35-6.55pm Open University (FM only): Maths - Relations
6.55 Weather: News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Dvorak (Carmel Overtures: Czech PO under Mark Neumann). Brahms (Hungarian Dances No 4 in F minor; Michael Boff, piano; Jean-Pierre Collard, piano). Smetana (Three Dances, The Bartered Bride: Vienna PO under Levine).
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Arnold (Four Scottish Dances, Op 59; Philharmonia under Thompson). MacCormac (The Land of the Mountain and the Flood: SNO under Gibson). Bruch (Scottish Fantasy: Israel PO under Mervin).
8.30 Composers of the Week: Fauré. Nocturne: No 7 in C sharp, Op 74; No 8 in D flat, Op 64; No 9 in E flat, Op 90; No 10 in E minor, Op 99; No 11 in C major, Op 98; No 12 in C major, Op 115 (Quintetto Fauré di Roma).
9.35 An English Music Meeting: Purcell (St. Cecilia). Nicola Matteis (Divisions on a Ground in D minor: Parley of Instruments under Purcell). Handel (Dettingen Te Deum: Choir of Westminster Abbey; English Chamber under Purcell). Corelli (Sonata for Violin and Cello: Decca). Baroque under Charles Medlam, with Emma Kirkby, soprano; Haydn (Symphony No 14 in E flat: Harrower Band under Goodman).
11.10 BBC Welsh 30 in Tokyo under Tadaaki Otaka performs Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1: David Pyatt); Mahler (Symphony No 5 in C sharp minor).
1.00pm News
**1.05 Birmingham Lunchtime Concert: Live from Popple Mill. The pianist Leslie Howard plays Haydn (Sonata in G, H. SVI.40); Sonatina in D, H. XVI.37; Rachmaninov (Elegy, Op 3 No 1); Liszt, Op 21 No 1; Chopin, Op 10 No 1; Three Preludes from Op 32; Debussy, Op 38 No 3; Moment Musical, Op 16 No 3; Pósa de W. F.).
2.05 Pilgrims of Monte: Lyon Opera Gardner performs Gluck's comic opera in three acts, to a libretto by Louis Hurler. Dancourt. Sung in French.**

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: The Amish - A Family Legacy. Ends at 7.10.
6.55 News 5.15 The Gun. The development of the Enfield rifle (r) 8.30 *The Journey* (r).
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes.
2.00 News and weather followed by *You and Me* (r) 2.15 *City Parish*. A portrait of a small Catholic church in the heart of inner-city London (r). (Ceefax) 2.55 *Holiday Outings*. Alison Payne returns to Lyme Regis on the Dorset coast, the haunt of her childhood (r).
3.00 News and weather followed by *The Wreck of the Mary Rose*. The last of three documentaries on the salvaging of Henry VIII's battleship *Mary Rose* which sank in the Solent in 1545. 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather.
4.00 Peter the Great. The conclusion of the dramatization of the life and times of the Russian tsar (r). (Ceefax).
5.30 The Making of Superwoman. A behind-the-scenes look at the making of BBC2's natural history series *Superwoman*, presented by Gavin Campbell (r). (Ceefax).
6.00 Film: American Hot Wax (1978) starring Tim McIntire, Fran Drescher and Jay Leno. The musical story of the controversial 1950s DJ Alan Freed and his attempt to make rock 'n' roll acceptable on the airwaves. Directed by Floyd Mutrux.
7.30 Business Matters: The Big Yellow Elephant Flights the *Roll Dragon*. Martin Young with the story of how the Kodak film company rose to the challenge posed by their Japanese rivals Fuji.



Artistic cuisine: Lesley Downer and Minoru Yoneda (8.00pm)

8.00 A Taste of Japan
 ● CHOICE: After exploring most other aspects of the national culture, the BBC's Japanese season comes finally and inevitably to food. Six programmes presented by the cookery writer Lesley Downer look at how food is prepared and served, going beyond the mere demonstration of recipes to relate dishes to Japanese history and society. Western appetites may be horrified at the first delicate portions and the practice of selecting food as much for its colour and shape as its flavour. But the emphasis on fresh food and light cooking makes the Japanese diet exceptionally healthy. No wonder the Japanese live so long and have such a low rate of heart disease. The artistry of the chef is demonstrated in the series by Minoru Yoneda. He starts tonight with soups, and goes on to the sashimi, the fish which is at the heart of Japanese cuisine and offers the chance for a virtuoso display of knife-work. (Ceefax).
8.30 Top Gear. The first of a new series includes a visit to the Frankfurt motor show.
9.00 The Travel Show. A foreign resort report from the high-rise city of Playa Del Ingles on the south-east coast of Gran Canaria, plus a look at the attractions of the Snowdonia district of north Wales.
9.30 LBJ
 ● CHOICE: The second part of the Lyndon Johnson biography begins with his assumption of the presidency after the assassination of Kennedy. We soon move to the extraordinary contrast at the heart of the story. We are reminded that on the domestic front Johnson was one of the great liberal presidents. To push through the civil rights bill to end black segregation needed both political courage, especially from a southern Democrat, and enormous political skill. Johnson's declaration of "unconditional war" on poverty was another bold step, taken out of conviction rather than expediency. At the same time Johnson was inheriting the mess of Vietnam which was eventually to engulf him and destroy his career. This American-made series continues to be a model of its kind, lucid, informative, crisply edited and making effective use of archival material, not least black and white still photographs.
10.20 Voices from the Doll's House. Fiona Thyssen recalls her life as a top model of the wife of one of the world's richest men (r).
10.30 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative party.
10.40 Newsnight presented by Peter Snow.
11.25 The Late Show. A musical special brings together country singer-songwriters Rosanne Cash, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Nanci Griffith in concert at New York's Bottom Line club (s) 12.05am *Weather*.
12.10 Open University Health and Disease - The Primary Health Care Team. 12.35 *Weekend Outlook*. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes.

NB: (s) indicates stereo

TVS
 As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 *The Young Doctors* 3.25-3.55 *Sons and Daughters* 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* 6.00 *Cost of Living* 6.30-7.00 *Anglia News* 7.05 *Home Sweet Home* 11.20 *Prisoner*. Cell Block H 12.25-1.10 *Jobs* and the *Farmers*
TYNTE TEES
 As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 *Generation Time* 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* 6.00 *Cost of Living* 6.30-7.00 *Anglia News* 7.05 *Home Sweet Home* 11.20 *Prisoner*. Cell Block H 12.25-1.10 *Jobs* and the *Farmers*
WYTHS
 As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 *Generation Time* 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* 6.00 *Cost of Living* 6.30-7.00 *Anglia News* 7.05 *Home Sweet Home* 11.20 *Prisoner*. Cell Block H 12.25-1.10 *Jobs* and the *Farmers*
YORKSHIRE
 As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 *Generation Time* 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* 6.00 *Cost of Living* 6.30-7.00 *Anglia News* 7.05 *Home Sweet Home* 11.20 *Prisoner*. Cell Block H 12.25-1.10 *Jobs* and the *Farmers*

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55pm Shipping Forecast 6.00 *News Briefing*, incl. 6.40 *Entertainment Tonight*.
6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 *Today*, incl. 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 *News*.
6.55 Weather 6.55 *Indian Summer*, by James Cameron (6 of 6).
9.00 News 9.05 *Face the Facts* (r).
**9.30 Plain Tales from the Rhododendrons. An explosion of bowdlerised history. Christopher Maitland on the post-second world war caste system created by the other classes in India (1 of 6).
10.00-10.30am A Glass of Blessings (FM only): An Answer to Prayer. First of a six-part adaptation of Barbara Pym's novel.
10.00 News: An Act of Worship (LW only) (s).
10.15 The Bible (LW only): Genesis. John Gledhill reads from the Old Testament in the Authorised Version and the New Testament from the Revised English Bible.
10.30 Women's Hour: Jenni Murray, writer, and John Humphrys, MP, debate whether lobbying is a corruption of democracy.
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 *News*; You and Yours: John Howard reports on the future of Britain's universities and polytechnics.
12.25pm Trivia Test Match: Brian Johnston unites another test of wit and general knowledge (s) (r) 12.55 *Weather*.
1.00 The World at One.
1.35 A Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative party.
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 *Shipping*.
2.00 News; Roscoe's (r), by Don Hewitt. An evocative portrait of a couple in their seventies, and their young grandson, who struggle to live off the land, and the ill-fated rescue (Kenneth Cranham) who transforms their lives (s).
3.00 News; Down Your Way (r).
3.40 Poetry Pleased from the Salisbury Festival.
4.00 News.
4.05 Kaleidoscope: Includes reviews of the RSC's Stratford production of *Measure for Measure* (r).
FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3kHz/265m; 108.9kHz/273m; FM 97.5-99.8; Radio 2: FM 89-90.2; Radio 3: 121.5kHz/247m; FM 90-92.4; Radio 4: 159.9kHz/151.5m; 92.4-94.6; Radio 5: 69.3kHz/433m; 90.9kHz/330m; World Service: MW 648kHz/465m; Jazz FM 102.2; LBC: 112.6kHz/261m; FM 97.3; Capital: 104.8kHz/104m; FM 95.8; GLR: 145.8kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 101.9.**

ITV

6.00 TV-am
6.25 Runway. General knowledge quiz with holiday prizes. Today's contestants are identical triplets (s) 9.55 *Thames News* and weather.
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... With Mike Scott.
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine presented by the husband and wife team of Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Includes national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather.
12.10 The Rickie. Children's puppet series (r).
12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 *Thames News* and weather.
1.20 Home and Away. (Ceefax) 1.50 *A Country Practice* (s).
2.20 TV Weekly. Anne Diamond looks behind the scenes of ITV and Channel 4 programmes and meets the stars. *Bany Tox* revises memories of the clips into the television archives. 2.50 *Give Us a Clue*. Celebrity charades chaired by Michael Parkinson. The regular team captains, Lionel Blair and Lisa Goddard, are joined by Amelia Bullmore, Keith Chegwin, Kenny Everett, Fraser Hines, Maggie Moore and Gillian Taylor (s).
3.15 ITN News headlines. 3.20 *Thames News* headlines. 3.25 *The Young Doctors*. Medical drama serial set in a large Australian city hospital.
3.55 Rolf's Cartoon Club. Rolf Harris's guide to the world of animation. 4.25 *Ask Oddie*. Bill Oddie's environmental series. Among this afternoon's topics are dolphins, the future of Antarctica and artificial farming. (Oracle) (s) 4.45 *Count Down*. Cartoon adventures (r).
5.10 Who's the Boss? American comedy series starring Tony Danza. 5.40 *News* with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather.
5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Speckley with news of London's friendship clubs for those on their own in the capital.
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle).
6.30 Thames News. (Oracle).
7.00 Emmerdale. Drama serial set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle).
7.30 Jimmy's. Another visit to St James's hospital in Leeds.
8.00 The Bill. Hitting the Mark. Concluding the drama begun on Tuesday when a petty thief was murdered by a professional killer and the hunt is on to locate him and his next intended victim. (Oracle).
**8.30 This Week in Deep Water - The Problem With Polar. A report on Britain's elderly Polaris nuclear submarine fleet, including secretly shot film and interviews with submariners and nuclear fitters, reveals disturbing facts. (Oracle).
9.00 Minder: Whatever Happened to Her? Arthur's wife goes missing and he is the prime suspect. But Arthur has more important things on his mind - a cash flow problem and trouble with the local planning enforcement officer. Starring George Cole, Gary Webster and Kevin McNally. (Oracle).
10.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative party.
10.10 News with Julia Somerville and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) weather. 10.40 *Thames News* and weather.
10.50 The City Programme. Includes an interview with Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank.
11.20 01. A guide to London's entertainment scene presented by Paula Yates and Richard Jobson.
11.50 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Drama serial set in an Australian women's remand centre.
12.40am A Problem Aired. Viewers' emotional problems discussed by the *Problem Aired* team.
1.10 The Concert. Jazz from the Julian Joseph Quartet at the Town & Country Club, Kentish Town.
2.10 Film: Fedors (1978) starring William Holden and Marthe Keller. Drama about an ageing film director who visits a Greek island in the hope of persuading a reclusive Hollywood actress to return to the screen. A return by director Billy Wilder to *Sunset Boulevard* territory, but not half as effective.
4.30 America's Top Ten (r) (s).
5.00 Videofashion (r).
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00.
NB: (s) indicates stereo**

SATTELITE

SKY ONE
 ● Via the Astra and Marconi satellites. 6.00am *The DJ*. 8.40 *Mrs Penelope*. 8.55 *Playboy*. 9.10 *Cartoons*. 9.30 *Ed*. 10.00 *The Lucy Show*. 10.30 *The Young and the Rubidious*. 11.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful*. 11.30 *The Young and the Rubidious*. 12.30 *Barney*. 1.30 *Another World*. 2.30 *Barney*. 3.30 *Another World*. 4.30 *Barney*. 5.30 *Barney*. 6.30 *Barney*. 7.30 *Barney*. 8.30 *Barney*. 9.30 *Barney*. 10.30 *Barney*. 11.30 *Barney*. 12.30 *Barney*.
SKY NEWS
 ● Via the Astra and Marconi satellites. News on the hour. 5.00am *Surprise 5.30*. 6.00 *Surprise 6.30*. 6.30 *Dayline*. 7.00 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 7.30 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 8.00 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 8.30 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 9.00 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 9.30 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 10.00 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 10.30 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 11.00 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 11.30 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 12.00 *Financial Times Business Weekly*. 12.30 *Financial Times Business Weekly*.
SKY MOVIES+
 ● Via the Astra and Marconi satellites. 6.00am *Shogun*. 6.30 *Shogun*. 7.00 *Shogun*. 7.30 *Shogun*. 8.00 *Shogun*. 8.30 *Shogun*. 9.00 *Shogun*. 9.30 *Shogun*. 10.00 *Shogun*. 10.30 *Shogun*. 11.00 *Shogun*. 11.30 *Shogun*. 12.00 *Shogun*. 12.30 *Shogun*.
RADIO 1
 ● Stereo on FM. 6.00am *News*. 6.30am *News*. 7.00am *News*. 7.30am *News*. 8.00am *News*. 8.30am *News*. 9.00am *News*. 9.30am *News*. 10.00am *News*. 10.30am *News*. 11.00am *News*. 11.30am *News*. 12.00am *News*. 12.30am *News*.
RADIO 2
 ● Stereo on FM. 6.00am *News*. 6.30am *News*. 7.00am *News*. 7.30am *News*. 8.00am *News*. 8.30am *News*. 9.00am *News*. 9.30am *News*. 10.00am *News*. 10.30am *News*. 11.00am *News*. 11.30am *News*. 12.00am *News*. 12.30am *News*.
RADIO 5
 ● Stereo on FM. 6.00am *News*. 6.30am *News*. 7.00am *News*. 7.30am *News*. 8.00am *News*. 8.30am *News*. 9.00am *News*. 9.30am *News*. 10.00am *News*. 10.30am *News*. 11.00am *News*. 11.30am *News*. 12.00am *News*. 12.30am *News*.

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55pm Shipping Forecast 6.00 *News Briefing*, incl. 6.40 *Entertainment Tonight*.
6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 *Today*, incl. 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 *News*.
6.55 Weather 6.55 *Indian Summer*, by James Cameron (6 of 6).
9.00 News 9.05 *Face the Facts* (r).
**9.30 Plain Tales from the Rhododendrons. An explosion of bowdlerised history. Christopher Maitland on the post-second world war caste system created by the other classes in India (1 of 6).
10.00-10.30am A Glass of Blessings (FM only): An Answer to Prayer. First of a six-part adaptation of Barbara Pym's novel.
10.00 News: An Act of Worship (LW only) (s).
10.15 The Bible (LW only): Genesis. John Gledhill reads from the Old Testament in the Authorised Version and the New Testament from the Revised English Bible.
10.30 Women's Hour: Jenni Murray, writer, and John Humphrys, MP, debate whether lobbying is a corruption of democracy.
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12.25pm Trivia Test Match: Brian Johnston unites another test of wit and general knowledge (s) (r) 12.55 *Weather*.
1.00 The World at One.
1.35 A Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative party.
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 *Shipping*.
2.00 News; Roscoe's (r), by Don Hewitt. An evocative portrait of a couple in their seventies, and their young grandson, who struggle to live off the land, and the ill-fated rescue (Kenneth Cranham) who transforms their lives (s).
3.00 News; Down Your Way (r).
3.40 Poetry Pleased from the Salisbury Festival.
4.00 News.
4.05 Kaleidoscope: Includes reviews of the RSC's Stratford production of *Measure for Measure* (r).
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CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Daily 9.25 Schools
12.00 Something to Treasure. In the fourth of the seven-part series about collecting Geoffrey Bond goes in search of some precious heritage.
12.30 Business Daily 1.00 Sesame Street (r).
2.00 The March of Time. Today's programme based on the pioneering newswear features a Soviet propaganda film *One Day of War*. Offering a rare glimpse of the Soviet war effort, it was promoted throughout Britain and the United States as a tribute to our "brave and powerful ally" (r).
2.30 Film: English Without Tears (1948, b/w) starring Michael Wilding and Lilli Palmer. Terence Rattigan's mildly satirical romantic comedy set during the second world war about a wealthy socialist serving in the ATS who falls for her aunt's butler. With Penelope Ward and Margaret Rutherford. Directed by Harold French.
4.10 Film: Dizzy Detectives (1943, b/w). The Three Stooges as policemen on the trail of a felonious gorilla and the crooks who trained him.
4.30 Countdown 5.00 *Willie the Wisp*. Cartoon.
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show: What Would You Do With Ten Million Dollars? James Patterson and Peter Kim, authors of *The Day America Told the Truth*, a survey of the morals of modern America, ask the audience to answer some of the ethical questions posed in the survey.
6.00 The Time Tunnel: Kill Two By Two. Adventures of two scientists (James Darren and Robert Colbert) trapped in a time warp. In this episode they are captured by Japanese soldiers on a Pacific island in 1945.
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather 7.50 *Comment*.
8.00 Films: Widescreen. The fourth in the six-part series focuses on the San Francisco-based Christian Buddhist Joanna Macy who organises workshops aimed at politically empowering Buddhists. She talks about the relationship between politics and the spiritual path. (Teletext).
8.30 Bagdad Café: When You're Hot, You're Hot. Assembly line American comedy, based on Percy Adlon's film of the same name, starring Whoopi Goldberg and Jean Stapleton as two abandoned women thrown together in a desert diner. Tonight they take each other to the local dance, their first excursion without their estranged husbands, promising to come home together. (Teletext).
9.00 Critical Eye: Picking Oakum.
 ● CHOICE: In the 19th century picking oakum, the plucking of loose fibres of old rope, was a common form of prison labour for women. In this film six former women prisoners argue that society's attitude to women and criminality has changed little over the past 100 years. In a mixture of interview and dramatic sketches, they mount a formidable indictment of the police, the courts, prisons, special hospitals and the media. Partly their anger is directed against a system in which the vast majority of judges, barristers and police officers are male. They argue that what men can use prison to bolster their manhood, female crime is regarded as unfeminine and has to be hidden. They complain about their treatment in the tabloid press. Perhaps the most disturbing allegation is about the way maximum security hospitals such as Broadmoor are used as a threat to keep women prisoners in line. (Teletext).
10.00 Film: Milk and Honey (1988) starring Josette Simon. The moving story of a Jamaican woman who moves to Canada in search of a better life. She takes a job as a nanny but soon discovers that all is not a bed of roses in her chosen country. Directed by Rebecca Yates and Glen Salzman. (Teletext).
11.40 In Context. Charles Wheeler chairs a discussion on nationalism. Among those taking part are John Keane, head of the centre for the study of democracy at the Polytechnic in Central London, Andrew Morahan, Hungary's trade minister, Branka Magocsi, co-editor of the *New Left Review* and Afri Safieh, the PLO's representative in London.
12.40am The Silk Scarf. A short fantasy film about a man who becomes obsessed with a model aeroplane he is constructing. Ends at 1.10.
NB: (s) indicates stereo

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● Via the Astra satellite. 6.00am *Artistic Gymnastics*. 6.30 *Field Hockey*. 6.50 *Surfing*. 7.00 *Motor Sports News*. 7.30 *European News*. 7.50 *Field Hockey*. 8.00 *European News*. 8.30 *Motor Sports News*. 8.50 *European News*. 9.00 *Motor Sports News*. 9.30 *European News*. 9.50 *Motor Sports News*. 10.00 *European News*. 10.30 *Motor Sports News*. 10.50 *European News*. 11.00 *European News*. 11.30 *European News*. 11.50 *European News*. 12.00 *European News*.
SKY SPORTS
 ● Via the Astra and Marconi satellites. 6.00am *Artistic Gymnastics*. 6.30 *Field Hockey*. 6.50 *Surfing*. 7.00 *Motor Sports News*. 7.30 *European News*. 7.50 *Field Hockey*. 8.00 *European News*. 8.30 *Motor Sports News*. 8.50 *European News*. 9.00 *Motor Sports News*. 9.30 *European News*. 9.50 *Motor Sports News*. 10.00 *European News*. 10.30 *Motor Sports News*. 10.50 *European News*. 11.00 *European News*. 11.30 *European News*. 11.50 *European News*. 12.00 *European News*.
SKY MOVIES+
 ● Via the Astra and Marconi satellites. 6.00am *Shogun*. 6.30 *Shogun*. 7.00 *Shogun*. 7.30 *Shogun*. 8.00 *Shogun*. 8.30 *Shogun*. 9.00 *Shogun*. 9.30 *Shogun*. 10.00 *Shogun*. 10.30 *Shogun*. 11.00 *Shogun*. 11.30 *Shogun*. 12.00 *Shogun*. 12.30 *Shogun*.

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THE TIMES BUSINESS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-28
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 31
- DEGREE RESULTS 31
- FOCUS: SMALL BUSINESSES 32,33
- SPORT 34-38

Chelsea Man calls receivers

SHARES in Chelsea Man, the troubled menswear retail chain, were temporarily suspended at 20p at the company's request, "pending a clarification of the company's financial position". In a later statement to the Stock Exchange, it emerged that administrative receivers have been appointed to seven companies in the group at the request of the directors.

The group, which operates menswear shops under the trading names of Jean Jeanie, Chelsea Man, Copyright and Nickleby's, employs about 600 people.

David Lovett and John Talbot of Arthur Andersen have been appointed joint administrative receivers with a view to finding a buyer for the business as a going concern.

Germany gets tough, page 25

Bowthorpe dips

Pre-tax profits at Bowthorpe Holdings, the electronics group, declined 10 per cent to £21.3 million in the six months to June 30, ending its 15-year-old record of rising profits. The interim dividend is increased to 1.7p (1.62p).

Temps, page 26

Calor jumps

A colder winter helped Calor Gas boost pre-tax profits by 73 per cent to £32.7 million in the six months to end-June. The interim dividend is held at 6p from earnings per share up from 7.6p to 13.3p.

Temps, page 26

US dollar

1.7307 (-0.0086)

German mark 2.9136 (same)

Exchange index 90.9 (-0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share

2007.1 (-30.8)

FT-SE 100 2583.6 (-10.8)

New York Dow Jones 3008.72 (-4.47)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23317.78 (-125.83)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Meriton Thompson ... 224 1/2p (+10p)
SG Warburg ... 52 1/2p (+13p)
S&P Stores ... 199 1/2p (+12p)
Harland Simon ... 185p (+12p)
Mays ... 185p (+12p)
Blenheim Group ... 377 1/2p (+20p)
Proudfoot Alor ... 414 1/2p (+10p)
Seahorse ... 98 1/2p (+12p)
Kwik-Fit ... 185p (+14p)
Gold Greenless ... 202 1/2p (+13p)
Savoy Hotels 'A' ... 667 1/2p (+15p)
FAL ... 219p (+10p)
Tennant ... 349p (+14p)
Steeley ... 86 1/2p (+14p)
RMC Group ... 805p (+14p)
Grand Mer ... 805p (+14p)
Reckitt & Coleman ... 701 1/2p (+14p)
Rank Org ... 185p (+14p)
BICC ... 404p (+9p)
Marks & Spencer ... 268 1/2p (+9p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10 1/2%
3-month interbank: 10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 5 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.18-5.16%
30-year bonds: 10 1/2%
CURRENCIES
London: New York
£: \$1.7320
£: DM2.9288
£: Sfr2.5426
£: FF6.9200
£: Yen134.18
£: Sdr250.5
ECU £0.70243
ECU £1.42380
SDR £1.27904
London foreign market close
GOLD
London fixing
Auk \$348.00 p.m. \$348.30
close \$348.25-348.75 (\$200.95-201.45)
New York
Comex \$342.25-344.75
NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Oct) ... \$20.50 bbl (\$20.30)
RETAIL PRICES
RPI 134.1 August (1987-100)
Denotes midday trading price

Caution urged on interest rate cuts

Bank signals death knell for recession

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Governor of the Bank of England says the economy is climbing out of recession, but he warned the government not to repeat the error of the late Eighties by lowering interest rates too far.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton told businessmen and industrialists in Birmingham that the economy was "undeniably improving". He saw encouraging signs in the latest figures for output in manufacturing, wholesale and retail prices, unit labour costs, and consumer confidence.

Some of the effects of the cuts in interest rates since October had fed through into economic activity, he said.

"But there is more to come and I am confident that we are now coming out of recession." His confidence about recovery contrasted with the bearish tone of the Treasury's last quarterly bulletin, which said the economy was "bumping along the bottom". The bulletin appeared in August, as the government voiced confidence in an imminent recovery.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said the slowdown in inflation and wages growth had made it possible to cut interest rates steadily by 4.5 percentage points since Britain joined the European exchange-rate mechanism in October. "Crucial concern now is that the recovery should be sustain-

able, and it is this that explains our cautious approach to interest rate cuts." Last Friday, John Major said inflation had been "licked".

Mr Leigh-Pemberton's remarks, which appeared to rule out any substantial cuts in interest rates, came amid continued market doubts about the timing of the general election, a factor which has weakened the pound. Sterling yesterday traded below DM2.92, well beneath its DM2.95 central ERM rate, suggesting little scope for interest rate cuts.

Harking back to Mr Major's comment a fortnight ago about the economy being close to a "virtuous circle" of low inflation and sustainable growth, Mr Leigh-Pemberton said Britain had been "tantalisingly close" in the mid-Eighties. "We are approaching that position again. Stability in policy, and, above all, continuing resolve will be essential," he said.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said experience showed that without unremitting efforts to achieve price stability, inflation crept up; that the higher the inflation rate, the less stable it became, and the less the inflation rate, the greater the uncertainty generated. "Inflation is the modern equivalent of clipping the candle. Price stability, by contrast, is about honesty in economic policy," he said.

□ France, which overtook Germany in the low inflation stakes this year, is set to push annual consumer price inflation down to 2.8 per cent next year, from this year's expected 3.3 per cent, an outline of the 1992 budget bill forecasts.

□ In western Germany, producer prices, a measure of underlying inflation, rose 0.9 per cent last month, to show an annual increase of 2.7 per cent, unchanged from the annual rise in July, government figures showed.

□ In America, housing starts rose 0.6 per cent in August, after a 3.7 per cent rise in July.

Comment, page 25

Wage settlements slow to under 6%

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY increases in the three months to the end of September are running at well below 6 per cent, according to early indications from the regular Confederation of British Industry pay databank that prompted the CBI to forecast a sharp slowing in Britain's unit labour cost increases.

The figures, to be released fully in a fortnight, mark a further sharp fall in the rate of increase in wage settlements in the UK. In August, the CBI charted the sharpest drop in manufacturing industry pay settlements for a decade, when increases fell from 8.1 per cent in the first quarter to 6.5 per cent in the second.

The CBI has now revised that figure downwards slightly, to 6.4 per cent, and with 60 per cent of the expected settlements for the third quarter now in its databank, the CBI said yesterday that the average rise would be considerably below 6 per cent - with at least a quarter of all deals recorded running at below 4 per cent.

John Banham, CBI director general, said that if the government could achieve comparable figures in public sector settlements, Britain would be "well on the way to defeating inflation and achieving the sustained growth we are all looking for."

With improvements in productivity and this "very sharp fall" in pay settlements, Mr Banham said unit labour cost increases of 1 per cent were now a "realistic prospect" by the end of the year.

The CBI council, meeting in London yesterday, was given a preliminary report on the annual pay and performance presentation the CBI takes round to employers in the regions. Despite the falling level of pay rises, it will still emphasise the need for pay to reflect performance.

The CBI gave warning, though, against both Labour's national minimum wage policy, which it said would cost jobs, and about any future Labour government's ability to tightly control inflation.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said the slowdown in inflation and wages growth had made it possible to cut interest rates steadily by 4.5 percentage points since Britain joined the European exchange-rate mechanism in October. "Crucial concern now is that the recovery should be sustain-



Quick fitter: Tom Farmer, chairman of Kwik-Fit, is benefiting as customers keep older cars and replace parts. Kwik-Fit made pre-tax profits of £16.7 million, up 67 per cent, in the six months to August. Sales rose 16 per cent. Temps, page 26

Asda price slides after alert

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

NEARLY £316 million was wiped off the stock market value of Asda yesterday, when Sir Godfrey Messervy, the group's chairman, said there would be a "very significant deterioration" in the group's results this year and announced that the interim dividend would be cut.

Sir Godfrey, who had announced his intention to resign after yesterday's annual meeting, told shareholders that the interim dividend would be cut from 1.85p to 1.25p. The shares fell 27p to 67p and are at their lowest level for five years.

Analysts started cutting forecasts, with some who were expecting pre-tax profits of £200 million or more, halving them. Cazenove, Asda's broker, was said to have cut its full-year pre-tax profit from £188 million (£168.3 million) to between £90 million and £100 million.

Sir Godfrey, who is to be replaced as chairman by Patrick Gillam, said recession had affected food sales and that in real terms, volumes had fallen 2 per cent across the sector. Growth in Asda's food sales had been below the industry average all year.

Sales of the group's home and leisure items and at Allied, its home furnishings chain, continue to be affected by the recession. Sir Godfrey said: "Unless there is a marked upturn in the markets in which we operate, I regret to say, given the company's operational gearing and sensitivity to sales, we foresee a very significant deterioration in our results for 1991-2."

Tony MacNery, food retail analyst at County NatWest, said: "The cut in the dividend should have come 18 months ago. Asda has lost customers over the last ten years, and a significant degree of price competitiveness."

Mark Finney, of Hoare Govett, the broker, said if reports of a downgrading to £100 million by Cazenove were correct, the shares had "a lot further to fall". There was speculation that Metro International, of Germany, Europe's second biggest retailer, may make a bid for Asda.

Comment, page 25

British Gas averts action

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Gas defused a threat of legal action from two power station developers yesterday. It signed supply agreements with them just three days after being forced to publish new prices by Ofgas, the regulatory body.

The contracts with Thames Power and Coryton, which took out protective writs after British Gas raised bulk gas prices abruptly in March, are

understood to include compensation payments.

Ogas, which took action against British Gas in support of the two companies, still faces a court challenge from National Power, Britain's biggest generator. National Power is dissatisfied with the outcome of the six-month dispute between British Gas and its regulator over charges for power station gas supplies.

BICC, the electrical engineering and contracting group behind Thames Power, announced that two electricity supply companies are to take stakes in Barking Power, its power station project in Essex.

Southern Electric will subscribe around £25 million for a quarter of the equity, and London Electricity is taking 17 per cent for around £17 million.

Comment, page 25

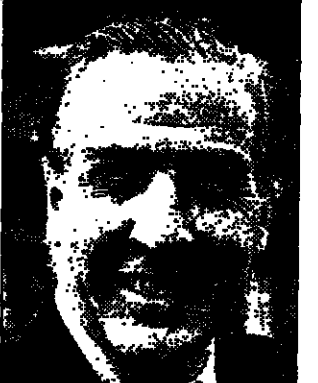
Virgin joins music rival

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

VIRGIN Retail Group and WH Smith, rival music retailers, are to join forces and develop the Virgin Megastore and Games chains in the UK and Ireland. The joint venture values the Megastore business at around £40 million.

Virgin denied that the move signified any financial problems for the group. Will Whitehorn, the Virgin spokesman, said: "We saw the opportunity with the slump in the retail property market for expanding the Megastore chain in the UK faster than we had originally envisaged. Had we needed to raise cash we could have sold the Megastore chain outright or sold any other part of the business. There have been plenty of offers."

The deal is conditional on approval from the Office of Fair Trading. If it is approved, details of the financing will be disclosed. Between them Virgin and WH Smith have around 22 per cent of the



Sir Simon: to pay cash music market. Sir Simon Hornby, the WH Smith chairman, is expected to pay cash for a 50 per cent stake in the Virgin retail business, which had sales of £64.7 million in the last financial year and net assets of £6 million.

WH Smith had a £148 million rights issue in May. Both companies will fund the expansion, with the Megastores costing £500,000 to £750,000 to launch.

In 1988, Virgin sold WH Smith a number of its small Virgin music shops for £25 million. WH Smith turned them into Our Price record stores. Since then Virgin has been concentrating on its Megastores and now has 12 in the UK and Ireland. The joint venture will operate these stores and there are plans for six more by the end of next year, with an eventual chain of 35 stores in the UK.

The deal does not include the Megastores in Europe or Japan where Virgin already has successful joint ventures. Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, was in Milan yesterday for the opening of the Megastore there. Never one to cut a ribbon, Mr Branson absented down the front of the building.

Virgin has seven Games stores in the UK and is planning to expand the chain in conjunction with WH Smith. Simon Burke, managing director of Virgin Retail, will continue to run the UK group.

Hanson seeks to regain City favour

By ANGELA MACKAY

HANSON plc sought to regain support from the City yesterday to win back favour that may have been lost as a result of the company taking a near-3 per cent stake in ICI.

Lord Hanson has appointed three new non-executive directors, taking the company's board to its full complement. The announcement followed comments from Lord Hanson that implied his company would not be launching an offer for ICI in the near term. The conglomerate bought a 2.8 per cent stake in ICI in May, triggering a wide-ranging campaign to stymie any bid.

Lord Hanson said he wanted ICI to cancel its red alert. "The only contribution that we would want to make (to ICI) would be, perhaps, to give whatever support we could to the company in the future."

David Hardy, chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, Simon Keswick, a director of Jardine Matheson Holdings, and Jonathan Scott-Barrett, an executive at Centaur Communications and the publisher of Money Marketing. Both Mr Hardy and Mr Scott-Barrett said they had not yet discussed their remuneration.

They join Charles Price and Sir Christopher Harding, the existing non-executives, and with 12 executive directors, take the number of directors to 17, the biggest board in Hanson's history.

Lord White, the executive chairman of Hanson's American subsidiary, is still not a member of the main board, and Martin Taylor, Hanson's joint vice-chairman, said there were no plans for Lord White to join.

Hanson's halo, page 25

A slimmer BT could reap £1bn bonus

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

OVERMANNING is still costing BT £1 billion a year in excess costs compared with its most efficient rivals in America, analysts at SG Warburg Securities, the government's chief adviser on the sale of BT shares this autumn, have concluded.

This apparently damning indictment, which may leave Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, wincing, is, however, seen by the analysts as a strength: a £1 billion leverage that could be used to offset the severe effect of new price restraints in a period of lower inflation and regulatory determination that BT will continue to lose market share. The Warburg analysts,

rated as the best in the City in their sector, have operated without confidential information. They reckon that BT, which cut 19,000 jobs in the first year of its Project Sovereign, will have increased this to about 40,000 by March 1993, and that there will still be further scope for staff cuts.

BT is still about 24 per cent less efficient than the best of the "baby Bell" companies in America, leaving it where they started after being broken away from AT&T eight years ago.

After privatisation, BT was so inefficient and had invested so little under state control that it had to take on more staff in the late Eighties to improve levels of service and put in

the digital network. Now that all trunk lines and half local switching is digital, BT can cut staff costs. 45 per cent of its total costs, compared with 23 per cent at rival Cable and Wireless.

Warburg thinks BT management, which has been much criticised for supposedly public sector attitudes, is willing to cut costs. Productivity improved 10 per cent last year, against an industry average of 3 per cent, and staff costs are virtually static.

Warburg also argues that neither regulation nor competition from PCN and cable operators pose the threat many expect. The duopoly review offered BT the benefit of much more flexible pricing, allowing it to challenge competitors such as Mercury by offering discounts to big customers.

Diary, page 25

BRITAIN'S BUSINESS WEEKLY

EVERY WEDNESDAY

EXCLUSIVES THIS WEEK
THE AMAZING STORY OF JAMES GULLIVER
WHY KEITH PROWSE WENT BUST
FORD'S MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS
THE TRUTH ABOUT MICHAEL JULIEN'S HEALTH
PLUS
DAVID HEMERY SIR JOHN HARVEY-JONES
MARK MCCORMACK TOM PETERS

Management Week

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No dividend at Trade Indemnity

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TRADE Indemnity, the trade credit insurer, has passed its half-year dividend after suffering a flood of claims caused by the rise in the number of company failures. The 0.9p interim dividend last year cost £986,000. TI said it would decide whether to pay a final when the results for the year became clear.

The group has set aside an additional £37.7 million to cover underwriting losses, almost the entire proceeds of its £39 million rights issue last May. This follows a 147 per cent rise in insurance claims in the first half of the year to £32.1 million net of reinsurance.

Gross claims totalled £83 million. The group said that the rate of company failures had risen by 83 per cent in the first half of the year to 3,825. While TI said the volume of liquidations and receiverships has reached a plateau, it warned shareholders that it is not likely to fall for another two years.

The new provisions include £13.5 million on commercial

mortgage indemnity business, which has been particularly hard hit by the recession. TI withdrew from this class of business last March but continues to receive additional claims.

The rise in claims and the additional provisions are likely to keep TI in losses for the full year. In 1990 the group reported losses of £28.8 million.

Charles McCarten, a director, said the group had warned its shareholders that funds from the rights issue would be used for further provisions, and that they would understand the need to abandon the dividend. The group is trying to compensate for the rise in claims by increasing premiums by an average of 40 per cent.

In the half year this helped gross premiums rise by 29 per cent to £68.1 million. The company said the real impact of the increases will be seen in the second half. TI has also boosted its net premium levels by reducing its brokers' commissions in July.

Racal to fight takeover

By MATTHEW BOND

RACAL Electronics yesterday officially rejected the takeover bid launched by Williams Holdings on Tuesday. The Racal board, led by Sir Ernest Harrison, the chairman, said the bid was "unsolicited and unwelcome" and "significantly undervalues Racal's longer-term potential".

In the stock market, Racal shares fell 1p to 56½p, while Williams lost 5p to 332p. At that level Williams' offer of three new shares for every 20 Racal values each Racal share at 49.8p. The slide in Williams' share price means the value of its offer for Racal has fallen from an initial £753 million to £702 million.

During the day it was announced that Sir Ernest had raised £5 million by selling 1.5 million shares in Vodafone, the cellular communications company whose total merger from Racal was completed on Friday. Sir Ernest sold the Vodafone shares on Monday, the day before Williams launched its bid.

A Racal spokesman said Sir Ernest had sold the Vodafone shares to enable him to pay for the Racal options that he was granted under the demerger agreement. The share sale was disclosed because Sir Ernest remains non-executive chairman of Vodafone.

In its defence against the Williams bid, Racal has recalled Goldman Sachs to act alongside NM Rothschild.



Line of defence: Racal's Sir Ernest Harrison

Jardine offers HK deal on listing

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

JARDINE Matheson Holdings has revealed plans to acquire a "trading only" status in Hong Kong, after reporting interim profits rose 10 per cent. Nigel Rich, the managing director, said the company would continue to comply with the colony's takeover rules, if it could have a primary listing in London and a trading status in Hong Kong.

Regulators have been worried that Jardine would be regulated in neither Hong Kong nor London.

Jardine earlier agreed to abide by Hong Kong rules for three years after its acquisition of a London primary listing. The decision to be permanently bound by them shows the group's reluctance to delist from the colony.

The group's net profits for the six months to end-June rose to US\$135.1 million from US\$123.3 million. The interim dividend is US\$3.4 cents, up 8 per cent.

The exchange began public consultation last week on whether to establish the "trading only" status for Jardine. There are fears that such a change might affect confidence in the territory as an international finance centre.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Scottish Power plans £150m NI grid link

SCOTTISH Power and Northern Ireland Electricity will today announce plans to build a £150 million interconnector linking Northern Ireland to the Scottish grid system. The 250 mw subsea cable will underpin government ambitions to privatise power generation and supply in Northern Ireland.

A shortfall in Belfast's capacity is likely to follow the expected closure of the 1958 240 mw Belfast West coal-fired plant in the mid-Nineties. Scottish Power is among 13 companies interested in buying generating capacity in Northern Ireland. Completion of a subsea link to Scotland is a key plank in the government's privatisation ambitions because it would help ensure Northern Ireland electricity prices are not far out of line with the rest of the UK.

Merivale falls sharply

COMMERCIAL property development losses, property writedowns and increased interest charges were largely responsible for a collapse in pre-tax profits at Merivale Moore from £7.37 million to £615,000 in the year to end-June. Earnings per share plunged to 12.7p (35.8p), although the final dividend is maintained at 7.75p, making an unchanged total of 10.5p.

Crown calls for £4.8m

CROWN Communications, the broadcasting group which owns LBC, the London news radio station, is making a £4.8 million emergency rights issue to reduce debts, after the group lost £4.7 million in the half year to end-March. The three for eight issue, at 45p a share, could leave almost half the company with Darling Downs, an Australian television company.

Japan's brokers slide

JAPAN'S big four brokers, bruised by scandals, issued gloomy forecasts. One of them, Yamachi Securities, expects an interim loss of ¥12 billion (¥51.7 million) - the first for 28 years. Nikko, Daiwa and Nomura said earnings for the half year to September 30 would be about 70 per cent down on last time.

The Nikkei index is 9 per cent lower than at the end of May and 40 per cent below its 1989 peak. In the past six months, about 330 million shares a day have been traded, against 950 million in the late 1980s.

Abbott Mead raises payout

ABBOTT Mead Vickers, the advertising group, is raising its interim dividend from 2.7p to 2.8p, despite a decline in pre-tax profits to £1.9 million in the six months to end-June (£2.11 million). Earnings per share fell to 8.63p (9.6p) and turnover was £73 million (£63.3 million), boosted by a first-time contribution from BDDO. The shares firmed 5p to 333p.

Steel Burrill advances

STEEL Burrill Jones Group, the insurance and reinsurance broker, lifted taxable profits from £4.73 million to £5.29 million in the six months to end-June. Turnover increased to £20.5 million, against £15.1 million last time. Earnings per share edged up from 9.89p to 9.92p. The company is raising its interim dividend from 4p to 4.25p. The shares rose 9p to 339p.

Fitch passes payout

FITCH RS, the design group, has passed its interim dividend after exceptional losses pushed the company into the red in what the group described as "the worst UK trading conditions we have ever experienced". Last year it paid an interim dividend of 1.5p.

The company dived to a pre-tax loss of £675,000 (£459,000 profit) in the half year to end-June. Taxable operating profits slumped to £77,000 (£459,000), while redundancy payments and provisions for unoccupied properties led to an exceptional loss of £752,000.

Sky TV 'in sight of breaking even'

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

LOSSES of Sky Television have come down from about £10 million a week after the merger with BSB to less than £1.5 million. Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, said in the group's annual report: "The break-even point is at last in sight," he said.

He said there were strong financial, marketing and political reasons for making the compromise merger instead of letting BSB die. More than half the running costs of the combined BSkyB satellite service have since been cut, and the group reports that there were unexpectedly high dish sales of 313,000 in the first half of this year.

Mr Murdoch said many lessons had been learnt from the severe liquidity problems that forced the international media group, which owns The Times, into refinancing its debt during the year to the end of June. "There is scope to do much more," he said.

"Thanks to stringent cost control, difficult staff reductions and the sale of some magazines and smaller business, our major projects can

continue towards completion."

In Britain, the group's newspapers were hit by the general fall in advertising and circulation and the changeover to new colour presses. The Times was the only newspaper to see its advertising market share grow compared to last year, thanks to the first full year's publication of the Saturday Review section and the new colour facility. The Sun increased profits against the trend.

Mr Murdoch said the group's Australian newspapers had battened down for a long recession and were profitable.

In America, Twentieth Television, television production arm of Twentieth Century Fox, is being reorganised with plans for aggressive expansion.

After News Corp recorded its first loss after abnormal items, including the cost of refinancing, Mr Murdoch said stronger profits and cash flows would follow. By 1993-4 the group planned to cover interest charges at least three times by profits before interest and depreciation.

Alumasc advances to £5.85m

HIGHER interest income helped Alumasc, the beer keg guttering and components maker, to lift pre-tax profits from £4.85 million to £5.85 million in the year to end-June. Turnover was down £3.4 million to £41.8 million. Final dividend is 6.8p (6.15p), making 10p (9p) for the year.

COMPANY BRIEFS

SPANDEX (Int)
Pre-tax: £2.18m (22.21m)
EPS: 11.9p (12.8p)
Div: 1.9p (1.75p)

SECURE TRUST GROUP
Pre-tax: £3.13m (22.72m)
EPS: 14.5p (12.5p)
Div: 3.5p (3p)

STAG FURNITURE (Int)
Pre-tax: £932,000
EPS: 8.2p (5.2p)
Div: 2.5p (2p)

WORCESTER GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.05m (22.01m)
EPS: 2.4p (5.4p)
Div: 1.33p (1.33p)

NORTH SEA ASSETS (Int)
Pre-tax: £271,000
EPS: 1.91p (1.24p)
Div: Nil

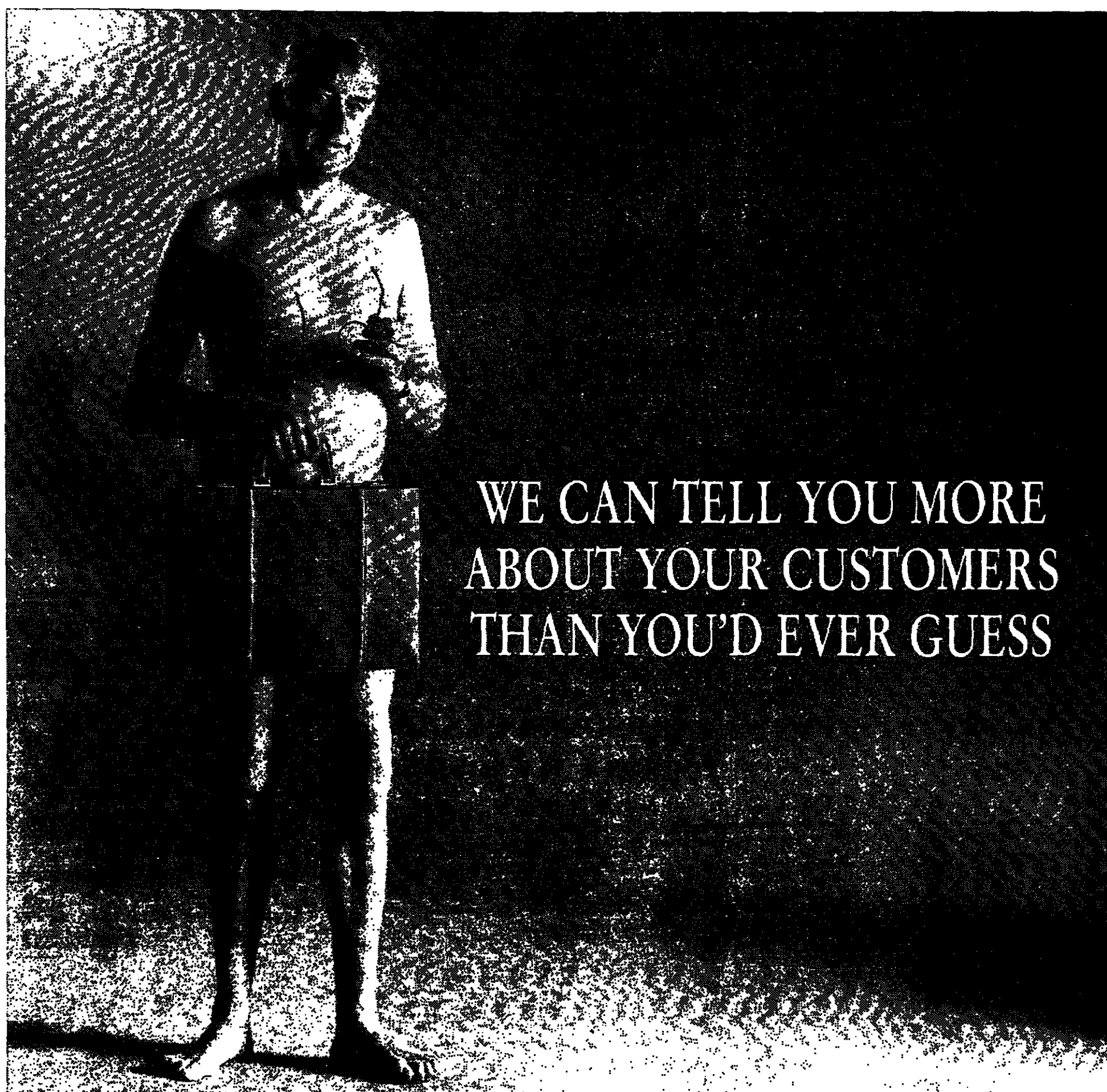
Turnover grew to £28.8m (20.6m). Company said that start-up costs in Italy, Austria and Switzerland will suppress short-term profitability.

Interim results. Gross income was £6.78m (25.85m). OBC, acquired in April, will make a positive contribution in the second half.

Last time's profit was £238,000. Extraordinary credit of £275,000. Balance sheet is strong with gearing below 9 per cent.

Earnings shown are fully diluted. Basic earnings were 1.5p (5.4p). Board is confident of a satisfactory full-year result.

Last time's profit was £290,000. Turnover jumped to £15m (28.58m). There was an exceptional credit of £45,000.



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up-to-the-minute business information.

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With our seventy years' specialist credit insurance experience, you'll not only know just how healthy your customer's business really is, but you'll be able to protect your all-important bottom line at the same time.

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Name _____
Position _____
Company _____
Address _____

Telephone No. _____
Please note that the details requested are for our information only and will be treated in confidence.

Type of business:
Manufacturing _____ Service _____ Distribution _____ Technology _____
Turnover: £1M+ _____ £5M+ _____ £10M+ _____ £50M+ _____
Trading Areas: UK _____ EC _____ OECD _____ Other _____

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071-739 4311
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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	BET Ord	Industrial A-D	
2	Br Land	Property	
3	Community Hospital	Industrial A-D	
4	Worcester	Industrial A-D	
5	Worcester	Industrial A-D	
6	Enterprise	Oil, Gas	
7	Reed Int	Newsprint	
8	Abbott Mead	Newsprint	
9	Estates Gen	Property	
10	Mervale Moore	Property	
11	T & S Stores	Drugs, Stores	
12	Carlton Comm	Leisure	
13	MEPC	Property	
14	Wessex Water	Water	
15	Logh	Chemicals, Plastics	
16	Trinity Int	Newsprint	
17	Nichols (NI) (Vint)	Food	
18	Watson & Philip	Food	
19	Hansons	Industrial E-K	
20	Halford (James)	Chemicals, Plastics	
21	Wimpsey G	Building Roads	
22	Smurfit (JF)	Paper, Print, Adv	
23	Midland	Banking, Discount	
24	Costan Group	Building Roads	
25	Spring Ram	Industrial S-Z	
26	Allied Lon	Property	
27	Nuha Foods	Food	
28	BPP	Newsprint	
29	Clarkson (H)	Transport	
30	Jardine Math	Industrial E-K	
31	Forminster	Drugs, Stores	
32	Preston	Building Roads	
33	Hawker Siddeley	Industrial E-K	
34	NFC	Transport	
35	Decca	Electricals	
36	Vodafone	Telecom	
37	Tate & Lyle	Food	
38	Security Serv	Industrial S-Z	
39	AB Elec	Electricals	
40	Christies Int	Industrial A-D	
41	Anscher (Henry)	Banking, Discount	
42	Oxford Instruments	Electricals	
43	GLN	Industrial E-K	
44	Charter Comm	Industrial A-D	
45	U Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum competition yesterday. The £2,000 prize will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91 High Low Stock Price Change %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1990/91	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00
101	101	101	101	101	0.00	0.00
102	102	102	102	102	0.00	0.00
103	103	103	103	103	0.00	0.00
104	104	104	104	104	0.00	0.00
105	105	105	105	105	0.00	0.00
106	106	106	106	106	0.00	0.00
107	107	107	107	107	0.00	0.00
108	108	108	108	108	0.00	0.00
109	109	109	109	109	0.00	0.00
110	110	110	110	110	0.00	0.00
111	111	111	111	111	0.00	0.00
112	112	112	112	112	0.00	0.00
113	113	113	113	113	0.00	0.00
114	114	114	114	114	0.00	0.00
115	115	115	115	115	0.00	0.00
116	116	116	116	116	0.00	0.00
117	117	117	117	117	0.00	0.00
118	118	118	118	118	0.00	0.00
119	119	119	119	119	0.00	0.00
120	120	120	120	120	0.00	0.00
121	121	121	121	121	0.00	0.00
122	122	122	122	122	0.00	0.00
123	123	123	123	123	0.00	0.00
124	124	124	124	124	0.00	0.00
125	125	125	125	125	0.00	0.00
126	126	126	126	126	0.00	0.00
127	127	127	127	127	0.00	0.00
128	128	128	128	128	0.00	0.00
129	129	129	129	129	0.00	0.00
130	130	130	130	130	0.00	0.00
131	131	131	131	131	0.00	0.00
132	132	132	132	132	0.00	0.00
133	133	133	133	133	0.00	0.00
134	134	134	134	134	0.00	0.00
135	135	135	135	135	0.00	0.00
136	136	136	136	136	0.00	0.00
137	137	137	137	137	0.00	0.00
138	138	138	138	138	0.00	0.00
139	139	139	139	139	0.00	0.00
140	140	140	140	140	0.00	0.00
141	141	141	141	141	0.00	0.00
142	142	142	142	142	0.00	0.00
143	143	143	143	143	0.00	0.00
144	144	144	144	144	0.00	0.00
145	145	145	145	145	0.00	0.00
146	146	146	146	146	0.00	0.00
147	147	147	147	147	0.00	0.00
148	148	148	148	148	0.00	0.00
149	149	149	149	149	0.00	0.00
150	150	150	150	150	0.00	0.00
151	151	151	151	151	0.00	0.00
152	152	152	152	152	0.00	0.00
153	153	153	153	153	0.00	0.00
154	154	154	154	154	0.00	0.00
155	155	155	155	155	0.00	0.00
156	156	156	156	156	0.00	0.00
157	157	157	157	157	0.00	0.00
158	158	158	158	158	0.00	0.00
159	159	159	159	159	0.00	0.00
160	160	160	160	160	0.00	0.00
161	161	161	161	161	0.00	0.00
162	162	162	162	162	0.00	0.00
163	163	163	163	163	0.00	0.00
164	164	164	164	164	0.00	0.00
165	165	165	165	165	0.00	0.00
166	166	166	166	166	0.00	0.00
167	167	167	167	167	0.00	0.00
168	168	168	168	168	0.00	0.00
169	169	169	169	169	0.00	0.00
170	170	170	170	170	0.00	0.00
171	171	171	171	171	0.00	0.00
172	172	172	172	172	0.00	0.00
173	173	173	173	173	0.00	0.00
174	174	174	174	174	0.00	0.00
175	175	175	175	175	0.00	0.00
176	176	176	176	176	0.00	0.00
177	177	177	177	177	0.00	0.00
178	178	178	178	178	0.00	0.00
179	179	179	179	179	0.00	0.00
180	180	180	180	180	0.00	0.00
181	181	181	181	181	0.00	0.00
182	182	182	182	182	0.00	0.00
183	183	183	183	183	0.00	0.00
184	184	184	184	184	0.00	0.00
185	185	185	185	185	0.00	0.00
186	186	186	186	186	0.00	0.00
187	187	187	187	187	0.00	0.00
188	188	188	188	188	0.00	0.00
189	189	189	189	189	0.00	0.00
190	190	190	190	190	0.00	0.00
191	191	191	191	191	0.00	0.00
192	192	192	192	192	0.00	0.00
193	193	193	193	193	0.00	0.00
194	194	194	194	194	0.00	0.00
195	195	195	195	195	0.00	0.00
196	196	196	196	196	0.00	0.00
197	197	197	197	197	0.00	0.00
198	198	198	198	198	0.00	0.00
199	199	199	199	199	0.00	0.00
200	200	200	200	200	0.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990/91	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00	0.00
101	101	101	101	101	0.00	0.00
102	102	102	102	102	0.00	0.00
103	103	103	103	103	0.00	0.00
104	104	104	104	104	0.00	0.00
105	105	105	105	105	0.00	0.00
106	106	106	106	106	0.00	0.00
107	107	107	107	107	0.00	0.00
108	108	108	108	108	0.00	0.00
109	109	109	109	109	0.00	0.00
110	110	110	110	110	0.00	0.00
111	111	111	111	111	0.00	0.00
112	112	112	112	112	0.00	0.00
113	113	113	113	113	0.00	0.00
114	114	114	114	114	0.00	0.00
115	115	115	115	115	0.00	0.00
116	116	116	116	116	0.00	0.00
117	117	117	117	117	0.00	0.00
118	118	118	118	118	0.00	0.00
119	119	119	119	119	0.00	0.00
120	120	120	120	120	0.00	0.00
121	121	121	121	121	0.00	0.00
122	122	122	122	122	0.00	0.00
123	123	123	123	123	0.00	0.00
124	124	124	124	124	0.00	0.00
125	125	125	125	125	0.00	0.00
126	126	126	126	126	0.00	0.00
127	127	127	127	127	0.00	0.00
128	128	128	128	128	0.00	0.00
129	129	129	129	129	0.00	0.00
130	130	130	130	130	0.00	0.00
131	131	131	131	131	0.00	0.00
132	132	132	132	132	0.00	0.00
133	133	133	133	133	0.00	0.00
134	134	134	134	134	0.00	0.00
135	135	135	135	135	0.00	0.00
136	136	136	136	136	0.00	0.00
137	137	137	137	137	0.00	0.00
138	138	138	138	138	0.00	0.00
139	139	139	139	139	0.00	0.00
140	140	140	140	140	0.00	0.00
141	141	141	141	141	0.00	0.00
142	142	142	142	142	0.00	0.00
143	143	143	143	143	0.00	0.00
144	144	144	144	144	0.00	0.00
145	145	145	145	145	0.00	0.00
146	146	146	146	146	0.00	0.00
147	147	147	147	147	0.00	0.00
148	148	148	148	148	0.00	0.00
149	149	149	149	149	0.00	0.00
150	150	150	150	150	0.00	0.00
151	151	151	151	151	0.00	0.00
152	152	152	152	152	0.00	0.00
153	153	153	153	153	0.00	0.00
154	154	154	154	154	0.00	0.00
155	155	155	155	155	0.00	0.00
156	156	156	156	156	0.00	0.00
157	157	157	157	157	0.00	0.00

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS

1991		Company	Price		Gross Chrgs	Yld dtr p	Yld %	P/E
High	Low		Bid	Offer				
High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Chrgs	dtr p	Yld %	P/E

[illegible]

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(3 year appointment, extendible subject to review)

The Building Research Establishment is the UK's main centre for research into building and construction and the prevention of fire. It has some 700 staff and an annual turnover of about £35M. BRE is an Executive Agency within the Department of the Environment, taking forward a programme of progressive management development in its role as a research contractor and technical consultant to Government, Industry and the owners and occupiers of buildings.

Reporting to The Head of Finance you will have an important innovative and line management role in BRE's Finance Service which is responsible for purchasing and contracts as well as accounting functions. You will advise members of the BRE senior management on accounting matters. You will also keep under review BRE's requirements for in-house and out-house qualified financial expertise.

You must be a full qualified accountant, belonging to one of the CCAB recognised professional bodies, with current experience in a commercial environment and having at least five years post qualifying experience, successful line management experience and good communication skills will be essential. Experience of the public sector and in particular the Parliamentary Supply system is desirable as is experience of working in a total quality environment.

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For an application form and further details please contact Recruitment Section, Building Research Establishment, Garston, Watford WD2 7JR. Telephone 0923 664745.

Completed application forms should be returned by 4 October 1991. Please quote reference BRE 7



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City

3 years international fixed interest sales experience

Age: 25 - 35 yrs

Salary: Up to 60K (depending on age and experience) plus mortgage subs, bonus and generous banking benefits

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In London, Yamaichi International (Europe), its European flagship, employs over 320 people from twelve countries, and has recently celebrated 25 years in the City.

Several positions have arisen in its expanding international bond sales department for successful sales executives with broad experience of sales across the range of international bond products.

Yamaichi's international bond sales department sells a full range of fixed interest instruments to governmental and supranational bodies, international companies and financial institutions.

The department's expertise covers all the major government bond markets including Japanese Government Bonds, US Treasuries, Gilts, OATS, Bunds and other European markets, as well as a large number of Euroyen, Eurodollar, ECU and equity warrant bonds. Yamaichi in New York, is a primary dealer in US Treasuries. In addition, Yamaichi has strong money markets and futures and options businesses in London.

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Having spent at least three years in international fixed interest sales, the right candidates, probably aged between 25 and 35 years, will have the ability to deal confidently with Yamaichi's major institutional clients worldwide and to develop new business relationships. Knowledge of a foreign language would be an advantage.

Male or female candidates should submit in confidence a detailed cv to Mrs Kath Lawrence, Head of Personnel, Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited, 111-117 Finsbury Pavement, London EC2A 1EQ. Telephone: 071-638 5599

Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited
Member of the Securities and Futures Authority and Member of the London Stock Exchange

Financial Accountant

c£17,500 - Caterham, Surrey

Bain Clarkson, part of the Inchcape Group, is a major international Insurance Broker, employing 3,000 people worldwide. With a tradition of success over 200 years, we are known for our high standards of quality in all aspects of international broking.

The accounts department of our Caterham office which deals with a variety of personal lines insurance is looking for a Financial Accountant. Your brief will be to manage the day to day accounting function - an integral part of which will be your responsibility for controlling debtors, creditors insurance accounting and monitoring all overheads. In addition you will be required to participate in the operational improvement programme for the office and the provision of technical accounting support to the department.

Part qualified ACA, ACMA or ACCA, you must be enthusiastic, self-motivated and able to rise to the challenge of this responsible role.

In addition to the base salary, there is a guaranteed bonus of 5% per annum and luncheon vouchers, together with free private health care, contributory pension scheme and life assurance cover.

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INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS



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Internal Auditor	Saudi	£28K-£30K	ACA/ACMA/ACCA
Internal Auditor	Middle East	£28K	ACA/ACMA/ACCA
Senior Auditor	India	£28K + CAR	ACA/ACMA/ACCA
Senior Auditor	London	£27K	ACA/ACMA/ACCA
Senior Auditor	London	£27K	ACA/ACMA/ACCA
Internal Auditor	South West	£25K-£28K	ACA/ACMA/ACCA
Internal Auditor	London	£25K-£28K	ACA/ACMA/ACCA
Internal Auditor	London	£25K-£28K	ACA/ACMA/ACCA

These are just a small selection of the vacancies we are currently handling.

For more details please phone John Howells or Michael Chorley on 081 974 5199 or write to them at Howell Chorley Associates, 17 River Court Portsmouth Road, Surbiton Surrey KT6 4EY. Fax: 081 546 6837.

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£37,000 + Bank Bens
ACA to join team involved in critical analysis and interpretation of group performance. Age to 35 with a proven success record, promotion prospects are excellent. ref MB 2054

Financial Accountant

£27,000 + Bank Bens
ACA (2 years PQE) to assume high profile role, involved in group reporting, financial services experience is a must. ref MB 2039

Please contact Maria Bushe

Tel: 071 930 8207 Fax: 071 930 7832
Abacus Recruitment plc,
11 Charing Cross road,
London WC2

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CIRCA £24K + BENEFITS
We have an opening for a Qualified Accountant. Your building industry background combined with your computer literacy will give the right person career progression within the W1 company. Dynamic personality and car driver a must. Non-smoker preferred. Please call Joanne Blarough on 071-734 0811.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT £20-£25,000
We are looking for a fully qualified and experienced Accountant to work for a fast, young firm company. If you are dynamic with Lotus 123 experience and Teletype (this is a must) and have a degree of experience within the firm industry. Please call Katherine Pooley on 071-734 0811.

TAX CONSULTANT

3 to 5 years relevant experience with knowledge of New Zealand tax legislation and suitable academic qualification. Salary based on experience.

Reply to the
Company Secretary
Sunbridge Associates Ltd
170 Finsbury Road, London NW3.

We are an expanding charitable organisation working with disadvantage young people. In response to the growth of the Society, we now seek to appoint a

FINANCIAL MANAGER

Salary negotiable up to £20,000 pa

This is a new key post with responsibility for developing and managing the financial accounting, systems, control and planning within the organisation. Relevant qualifications and experience is essential, knowledge of computerised systems an advantage.

The post is based at the Society's Head Office in Redhill which is moving to Brasted, Kent in June 1992.

Telephone the Society's Personnel Dept on 0737-772043 for an application form and information pack.



The Royal Philanthropic Society
Helping young people to help themselves

MICHELANGELO ASSOCIATES

36/38 Whitefriars Street, London EC4Y 8BH
Tel: 071 936 2857 Fax: 071 583 6531

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The position involves financial and analytical work offering a strong career path. This is an excellent opportunity with above average remuneration based at Corporate Head Quarters in Central London.

International Software House requires Financial Controller

An excellent opportunity has arisen within this highly successful international software house. As a result of continued growth in both the UK and overseas markets it now requires a commercially aware Accountant. You will have been qualified for over five years and have a working knowledge of the software market and will be expected to assist in the direction of future development of the business.

This important position demands sound interpersonal, managerial and commercial skills as well as business fluency in European languages. The successful candidate must be willing to be involved in the day-to-day financial and administrative management and the strategic planning of this dynamic organisation. The remuneration package includes a generous salary, car, pension, BUPA, and PHL.

Please reply to Box No. 8435.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Salary Scale £19,832 to £23,427

Applications are invited for the above vacancy within the Management Accounting Section of the Finance Office.

The University is presently undergoing a period of managerial restructuring with a view to improving information flows and decision-making. The successful candidate, as part of the Management Accounting Section, can expect to be fully involved in the process of developing such information.

Candidates should be good communicators, have organisational ability, and be able to integrate well within a team. A sound accounting background is required and experience of micro-based computer systems would be an advantage.

Closing date for applications 4th October 1991. Reference T1 910136.

For further particulars, contact the

PERSONNEL OFFICE, THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
1 ROXBURGH STREET, EDINBURGH EH8 9TA
TELEPHONE: 031-650 2512 (24 hour answering service)

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£ negotiable, BUPA Season Ticket Loan

Busy Firm of Accountants seek an Audit Supervisor (2 yrs PQE minimum) for audit and taxation responsibility preferably with small/medium size practice background and Music Industry knowledge.

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From fluorescent rainsuits to a £7,500 diamond collar, a range of accessories is available for dogs, Nicole Swengley writes

Since the government's recent introduction of stricter laws regarding dogs, it is becoming increasingly important for owners to buy the appropriate pet constraints and accessories.

Few owners realise, for example, that the law requires every dog to wear a disc in public places. The National Canine Defence League's "Lucky Dog" disc ensures that in an emergency, pets can be given veterinary treatment if hurt, even if the owner cannot be contacted.

The disc costs £2.75, including postage & package, but is free to members of the charity. Profits go towards the care of strays at league rescue centres (071-388 0137).

Other fashionable forms of identification include tags shaped like golden bones, £4.95 (engraving extra), and solid silver trout or salmon, £12.20, all available by post from Pretentious Pets (071-620 3535).

To ensure your dog does not stray too far, flexible leashes, with brake and locking device for control of dog walking, are available from the league's mail order catalogue from £7.75, plus £2.65 p&p.

Leads showing a dog's name with the owner's telephone number and personalised adjustable collars cost £5.95 each, or £10.95 for the set, plus £2.75 p&p, from the Paws 'N' Shop catalogue (071-733 7367). A collar with battery-operated flashing red lights, for dog or cat, costs £12.50 from Saville Edels, Walton Street, Chelsea (071-584 4398).

For social occasions, owners can buy a black velvet diamond dog collar, £11.50, or a white collar with coral beads, £6.50, from

What the top dog will wear this winter

Selfridges in Oxford Street (071-629 1234), while Asda Stores sells a velvet cat collar, £1.55.

At the top dog's store, collars at £6.10 and leather leads in Harrods green at £22.15, are decorated with a golden image of the store (071-730 1234).

Harrods also sells a diamond and gold dog collar for those really special best friends at £7,500.

Costs in Burberry's canine range include a waterproof waxed cotton coat in navy and a red thorn-proof coat for rambles, both in Burberry's distinctive check. Prices start from £20 at the Regent Street store in the West End (071-734 4060).

Fluorescent rainsuits with leggings in bright pink or orange cost £19.95 from Pretentious Pets. Safety coats in neon orange or yellow, embossed PVC, which allow dogs to be seen at night, cost £5.50 upwards, from the Pet Centre, at Minehead, Somerset (0643 703815).

Any sensible dog knows that the

best thing after a wet muddy walk is a rub-down on the car back seat. The dog seat cover from the Guide Dogs mail order catalogue is made of waterproof woven polyethylene and fixes easily with Velcro. It costs £5.55, plus £1.99 p&p (0268 779209). Asda sells a car dog harness at £4.35.

Alternatively, you can zip damp dogs up in a machine-washable cotton, towelling Dri Dog Bag, from £10.95, plus £1.95 p&p, from the Topvogue mail order catalogue (0254 823924).

A rub-down at home is just as satisfactory using a towel monogrammed with a pet's initial or name. These cost from £26.99, plus £10 for monogram, from the Descamps Shop at Liberty (071-734 1234).

A Descamps patterned 1.8 sq m towelling throw, £95, helps protect furniture while a battery-operated "pet vac" will ease grooming at £14.95 for cats (ref. E705) and £19.95 for dogs (ref. E706) plus £2.95 p&p, each from the Innova-



Winter warmer: the Burberry range of coats for dogs includes a waxed cotton waterproof, from £20

ions catalogue (0252 860606). Pets might prefer to recuperate on a small square padded Descamps quilt, price £40 from Liberty. Less expensive are Canac's duvets (0373 864775) from about £13 at petshops (washable covers from about £7). Canac also makes a special designed tick remover, £5.99, to reduce the risk of Lyme disease, which can affect humans and animals.

Pets with sore or injured paws might happily wear the Rebarb

sports shoe with cushioned insole and Velcro fastening, from £4.50 from the Minehead Pet Centre. Lazy or ill dogs needing transport will be safe in a Harrods leather dog carrier, price £95, or Canac cotton Karibed, from about £22 at pet shops.

As an alternative to pets pinching the best armchair, Harrods sells huge corduroy cushions, £69.95, while the Paws 'N' Shop catalogue has a cat cradle, £14.95, plus £2.75 p&p — a frame with fur-

abric lining for hanging over a radiator.

A blue denim Sneaker bed, with giant laces and plush pile lining, for cats or small dogs costs £30, plus £2 p&p, from the Paws 'N' Shop catalogue, which also offers orthopaedic dog beds for old animals, from £16, plus £2.75 p&p.

A Victorian-style pine pet bed, handmade to order with a washable cushion, can have the occupant's name hand-painted on the side. Small beds cost £88; large

£115, plus £7 delivery, from Barnham Farmhouse (0825 840227).

For mischievous moggies, Pretentious Pets has cord catnip mice, £1.95, latex "Jerry" mouse, £1.50 and squeaky fruit, vegetables or croissants, from £1.50 for dogs with a sense of humour. Asda Stores sell nylon bones, £1.49, and Paws 'N' Shop has a range of cat scratching posts from £12.95, plus £2.75 p&p. Selfridges sells squeaky toys shaped like musical instruments, £4.59.

Dogs have loved destroying knitted socks ever since their invention. The "Smooft", designed to keep footwear intact by offering scope for pet-people games such as tug-of-war or fetch-and-chase, is available in two sizes at £3.95 or £5.95, plus 50p p&p, in neon or pastel colours from Vanessa's Lucky Pets, Vale Road, Windsor, Berkshire (0753 830515).

At feeding time, Emma Bridge water's spongeware "Good Dog" bowl offers satisfactory slurping at £27.50 from the General Trading Company, Sloane Street, Chelsea (071-730 0411). A height-adjustable feeding system costs £9.95, plus £2.65 p&p, from the league's catalogue. The Guide Dogs catalogue has a Waterwell non-spill dog bowl for home or travel at £2.50, plus £1.99 p&p. Innovations has a programmable fish feeder, £15.95, plus £2.95 p&p, for overnight absences (ref. Q667).

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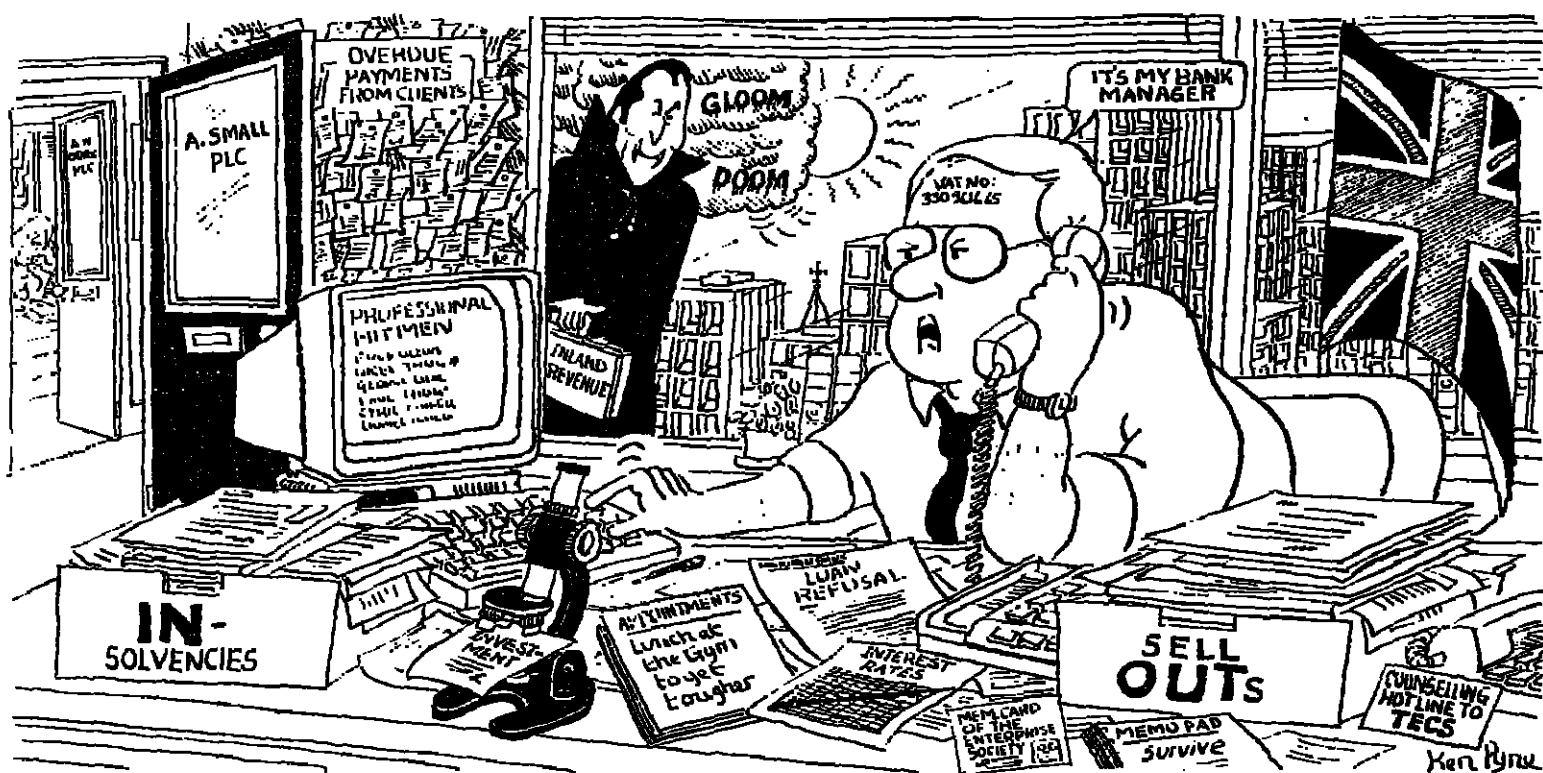
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سكزا من الاصل



Go-getter spirit survives

There is a breed of British entrepreneur tough enough to go into business, despite the rising number of failures. The number of businesses registered for VAT in 1990 rose by an estimated 50,000 – almost 1,000 a week – which compares surprisingly well with the record 1,600 a week during the 1989 boom.

Registrations and deregistrations for VAT give only a partial view of smaller business activity, but employment department estimates show a 4 per cent increase in the number of small businesses registered during 1990.

New businesses coming into the VAT net during 1990 were down by 8 per cent. The failure rate, measured by deregistration, rose by 7.5 per cent. In the analyses, a calculation was built in to offset the statistically dampening effects of the higher VAT threshold introduced in the 1990 Budget.

Insolvency figures collected by the trade and industry department covering business individuals – in contrast to

More people are choosing to start small enterprises, apparently undeterred by the failures caused by the recession and high interest rates, Derek Harris writes

companies – showed that the consistent rise through last year was maintained during the first half of 1991. In the second quarter of this year about 6,000 individuals in business went bust.

Opinions gathered by the Small Business Research Trust give expectations of a cutback in jobs and depressed investment intentions. Other recent estimates suggest that investment levels by small businesses could be approaching a six-year low.

The promised economic turnaround is awaited with particular keenness by the small-business sector, which has been savaged by the recession. High interest rates hit small businesses especially hard because of the sector's dependence on bank funding. Furthermore, when interest rates began to ease, the banks,

their own commercial operations at risk, grew tougher over loan support. The uniform business rate was another burden, while late payments from customers – 90 days is now common – have pushed many small operators to the financial edge.

However, Colin Gray, the deputy director general of the trust, believes that though some sectors may have been disproportionately affected – the construction industry, for example, and business services such as marketing and packaging – there are others, including services such as hairdressing and fast-food outlets, that have probably stood up well.

Mr Gray says small businesses will probably be the first to recover as the recession ends because they are inherently more flexible and can often react to change more quickly than big businesses. He adds: "Now that interest rates have come down, small businesses see their biggest problem as the lack of business. The economic indicators are mixed, but probably we are at the turning point."

The small businessman's struggle to survive has thrown

down a challenge, particularly to the newly established network of 82 business-led Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) in England and Wales, part of whose brief has been to foster local economic regeneration. Their main financial thrust has necessarily been on training, but an increasing number is trying to foster new small businesses.

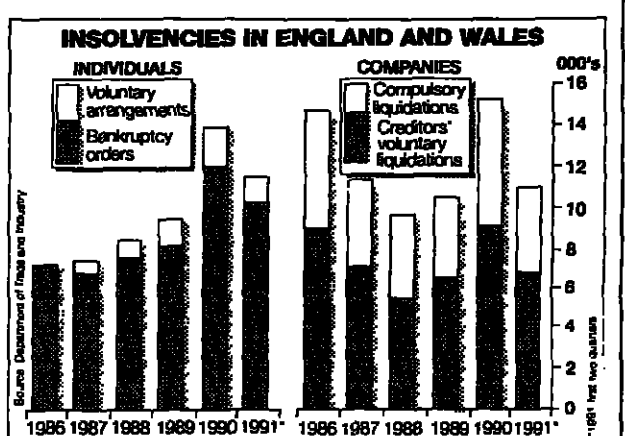
The TECs, left to develop their own strategies in response to local needs, have a varied pattern of action. About 20 have so far set up substantial business development programmes. Some are

already spending at least 15 per cent of their resources on help for smaller businesses, using enterprise allowance money to meet local needs, rather than making £40-a-week payments for a year.

Basic advice and counselling for small businesses is already being made available by most TECs. However,

because many TECs are campaigning for more government funding, less effort might be going into enterprise. Some TEC leaders complain privately that "enterprise initiative" help by the trade and industry department is not closely enough dovetailed with the efforts of the TECs because they operate under the employment department.

However, the government has so far decided against changing the interdepartmental arrangements.



Why banks had to get tough

The government is encouraging more venture capitalists to think small

HIGH street banks, the traditional source of operational cash for small businesses through loans and overdrafts, have been forced by the recession to be more realistic about their criteria for lending

to small businesses. At best they are being sensibly tough but at worst arbitrarily consigning businesses to failure (Derek Harris writes). The banks are likely to continue to be the most important source of cash for small businesses by offering many flexible loans, some comparatively long-term by bank standards. However, when an overdraft is cut back by a bank manager, or a loan refused, an entrepreneur must consider an outsider taking a stake in their business.

The Local Investment Networking Company (Linc), operated by a dozen United Kingdom enterprise agencies, is bringing together more cash-hungry businesses and investors.

Linc has dealt with investments worth £300,000 this year and seen a surge of enquiries in recent months. A typical stake is £30,000, although one deal this year reached £150,000. Most of the big venture capital providers are not interested in this level, although tiny businesses with a promise of exceptional growth, such as in high technology, may gain backing.

Eric Forth, the minister for small businesses at the employment department, is planning an autumn initiative to close this "equity gap". It is likely that Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) in England and Wales and their Scottish counterparts, the Local Enterprise Companies, will be encouraged to fund small businesses.

An encouraging trend is for the establishment of one-stop aid shops that point entrepreneurs to likely sources of financial help. There are many of these, from local authorities to EC funds.

The Rural Development Commission provides top-up finance for a project that might not otherwise be launched successfully. Typical advances range between £5,000 and £15,000.

Buying a franchise still offers one of the best ways to get loan capital because the franchisor has a track record.

Southern European partners lead the way

Britain may be heading for a change in economic structure if the government continues to encourage rapid growth in small businesses, Professor David Storey writes

In the early to mid 1980s, when attempts were made to promote an enterprise culture in Britain, government ministers attributed the relatively poor performance of the economy to a relative absence of small businesses.

In the popular language of the time, small companies were equated with entrepreneurialism and dynamism. A favoured comparison was with Japan, where small businesses were seen to play a leading role and where long-term economic growth rates were high.

In the early 1990s, it is possible to take a more informed view of the importance of small companies in developed economies and how that has changed during the past 20 or 30 years.

This is partly because of the efforts of statistical agencies to make their data more internationally comparable and partly because, over time, more data has become available.

United Kingdom statistics show the 1980s as a decade in which there was an increase from 1.29 million to 1.66 million businesses registered for VAT. The proportion of self-employed people rose from 7.9 per cent in 1980 to 12.3 per cent in 1990.

Have the 1980s been the growth of enterprise decade, as it is so often proclaimed, and if so, what are the implications for the development of the British economy?

Are the countries with which the United Kingdom would like to be compared fast-growing economies dominated by small businesses? Data for the UK's European Community partners suggests that in 1986 the UK was close to the European average, with 23 per cent of the workforce in companies that had fewer than ten workers, compared with a European Community average of 24 per cent, and 47 per cent of the UK workforce in small and medium enterprises (SMEs), compared with an EC average of 45 per cent. The UK is most often compared with Germany, France and sometimes Italy

within the EC. The table shows that both France and Germany are less dominated by SMEs than is the UK. Furthermore, it is, with the exception of Denmark, the less developed southern European countries in which small businesses are important.

The increasing importance of small companies in the UK appears to be moving the economy towards that of

with the partial exception of Japan. Nevertheless, the UK data is different from that of the other countries in one significant respect. In the UK the changing importance of small businesses occurred at the end of the 1960s rather than in the 1980s.

Work by Alan Hughes and Paul Dunne and his colleagues at Cambridge University has shown that the relative importance of manufacturing small businesses in the UK fell, so far as can be discerned, fairly continuously, from the 1930s to the end of the 1960s. It was in the early 1970s that small businesses started to become more important; the 1980s have merely accelerated this trend.

More contentiously, however, Hughes and Dunne assert that a significant proportion of the apparent increase in small companies in the early 1980s has come about because of the use of a wider sampling frame by government statisticians.

The statistics reflect long-term trends within the UK economy. What is less clear is whether these trends reflect a dynamic and enterprising economy or merely a step on the road to a less developed, style that is typical of southern Europe.

The writer is the director of research at the Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises, University of Warwick, Coventry



David Storey: better view

Spain or Portugal and away from those of France and Germany. Although there has been a clear increase in the importance of smaller businesses in the UK during the 1980s it is vital to place these developments in a historical perspective.

The UK is not unusual in experiencing, during the 1980s, a rise in the relative importance of small businesses; the same occurred in most developed economies –

Country	Companies employing less than 10		Companies employing 10-499	
	%		%	
Germany	18		27	
France	22		42	
UK	23		47	
Italy	40		43	
Spain	41		51	
Netherlands	19		42	
Belgium	31		40	
Greece	not available		64	
Denmark	19		45	
Portugal	36		not available	
Ireland	26		49	
Luxembourg	24		45	
European Community				

Source: Enterprises in the EC (1989)

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When it takes 22 to quango

Not only entrepreneurs but established small businesses have been plagued by the plethora of quangos and other organisations offering help - from advice to cash. In most areas, overlapping services are offered by local authorities, chambers of commerce and industry, enterprise agencies, government offices and regional economic regenerators. Some areas have been grappling with the problem of overlap. In the northeast, for example, regionally spread co-operation grew early. As one young civil servant said after working in the region: "In this game, you find it takes not two but 22 to tango."

The coordination process, with its promise of improving the lot of small businesses, is being hastened in many areas by the government's introduction of the England and Wales network of more than 80 Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs). The same is happening with the sister Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) in Scotland.

Kent TEC, for instance, contracted with its county council to take over the functions of the Kent Economic Development Board, which had been set up to attract inward investment after the closure of Chatham dockyard. The TEC met 18,000 companies in the area and found a need to achieve coordination.

In the northeast, Tyneside TEC covers not only Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead but both northern and southern Tyneside. There are 14 local enterprise agencies (LEAs) in the area and four local authorities. The agencies are contracted by the TEC to provide counselling and other help for small businesses and the local authorities are involved in influencing TEC-driven developments.

By December, business advice centres will have been opened in each of the four main areas covered by the TEC, providing a single focus

Too much advice can be confusing
Derek Harris
describes attempts to coordinate help

for a small business seeking help. Each of the centres, with Linda Harrison in overall charge as centres manager, will have a business club where new business heads can meet and generate network relationships for mutual help.

Target customers range from start-ups to businesses up to three years old. Enterprise allowance cash can be up to £60 a week for a year, possibly with a 13-week extension at a £40-a-week rate.

Olivia Grant, the TEC chief executive, says: "A priority, as well as increasing the numbers of self-employed and creation of new businesses, is to help newly created firms."

At Birmingham TEC, which started operations last November, Mark Tovey, the enterprise manager, says: "We wanted to move away from unemployed people starting in business with help from the business allowance scheme, but without other support. A lot of people in the last few years have lost out by not being properly prepared for a start-up. Our new business programme puts the allowance scheme together with business counselling, training and preparation to business plan stage."

Since last April 1,200 people have been to business advice days, 800 have received help with business plans, 900 counselling sessions have been held and 180 businesses have started.

Mr Tovey says: "There are close links with the city council, the local chamber and other established providers of help for the small business."

The quality of services being provided is increasingly an issue. Birmingham, like many TECs, is developing

quality standards. Hertfordshire TEC has a "business lifetime" for businesses fearing collapse, a project being monitored by the Cranfield School of Management.

Hertfordshire TEC, which spends nearly 17 per cent of its resources on helping businesses to start and develop, has brought a number of schemes to bear on promoting business survival, including "masterclasses", where entrepreneurs can hone their skills to grow in the next few years.

Business in the Community, the umbrella body for Britain's 350 LEAs, is campaigning to improve quality of services at agency level. The consequence of TECs will probably hasten this process because they use agencies on contract to provide counselling and other services and demand minimum quality levels.



Women's business: Olivia Grant and Linda Harrison

Dial BT for credit

BT is the latest big company to start a fund to develop small businesses. The scheme, FutureStart, was started last June with £3 million from BT. Between 40 and 50 ventures are expected to be funded within the next three years, including individual fundings of up to £150,000 (Derek Harris writes).

Big companies are giving a helping hand to their little brethren

These are comparatively small amounts in venture capital terms, but they would be difficult to get from many commercial venture capital providers.

About 60 applications have been made. BT's main criterion is that the businesses must be developed in economically deprived areas of the United Kingdom by entrepreneurs living locally. Such areas are usually underdeveloped rural districts, inner cities and places in which the closure of old industries has weakened a local economy.

BT expects a profitable turnover of £1 million or more to be generated within five years and a share of profits from a market flotation or sale of the business.

In February last year, British Gas launched a £15 million venture capital fund, BG Ventures, to help small, mainly British companies, that needed additional help for developing new technologies, products or services related to the main business of British Gas.

The target of the other three big industries has been to create more job opportunities by fostering small business development in areas hit by steel, coal and shipbuilding closures.

Vernon Smith, the chief executive of British Steel Industry, says: "These days, rather than start-ups being a

preoccupation, we concentrate on fostering firms that have got over their first critical few years and which, with help, are more likely to produce a greater number of jobs. We look to companies with a potentially long life."

Mr Smith has been impressed by the record of management buyouts (MBOs). A typical example is the Lancashire-based Terra Tek, which was created from a former subsidiary of the McAlpine construction group. British Steel Industry backed an MBO led by Alex Tait, now the managing director. Terra Tek more than doubled its turnover in the first year and is expanding into the growing field of environmental work.

In the past two years, investment in Scottish projects was £1.2 million. The total British Steel Industry investment this year may reach £1.2 million, including about £1 million for Scottish projects.

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The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the United Kingdom's leading social science research agency. The ESRC supports a wide range of business-related research and aims to provide the UK business community with the highest quality research.

The Council is currently collaborating with Barclays Bank, the European Commission, the Department of Employment and the Rural Development Commission in funding a major research programme on smaller businesses. As the largest research programme of its type ever undertaken in the UK, it is designed to provide the most authoritative statement on small businesses since the Bolton Committee report of 1971.

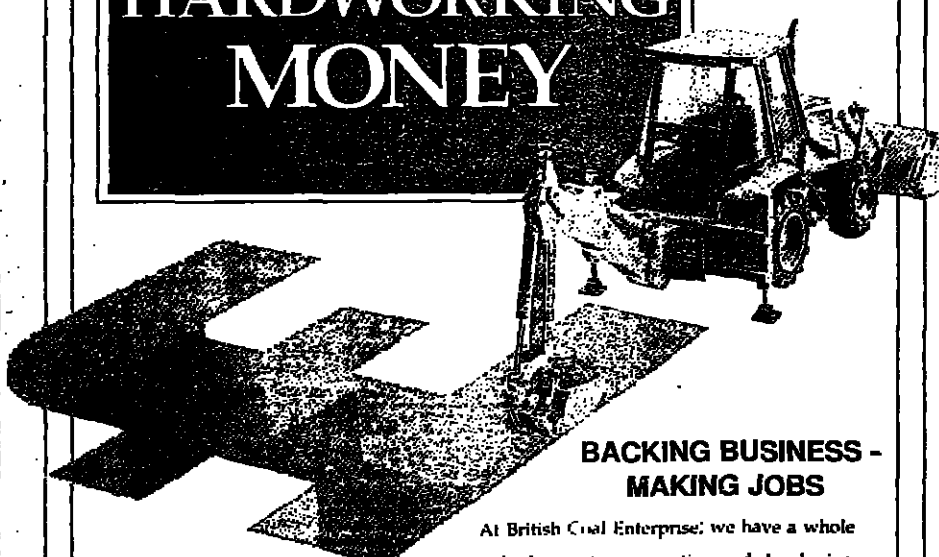
The programme is co-ordinated by Professor David Storey and has three main Centres and thirteen separate projects. One Centre at the Institute of Manpower Studies, Sussex University, is researching Local Labour Markets and Small Businesses. A second Centre at Kingston Polytechnic examines Small Enterprises in the Service Sector. The third Centre at Cambridge University is examining The Creation, Survival and Growth of Small Firms.

For further information on the programme please contact Professor Storey at SME Centre, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL. Tel: (0203) 523692.

To receive information about the ESRC's other business-related research and activities, please contact the Information Division.

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Ten-year high for business failures as interest bites

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BT gives small businesses a chance.

At BT, we're happy to do what we can to help this country's small entrepreneurs. That's why we're now funding FutureStart, a community venture fund that's designed to help start-up and early stage businesses in the UK's less prosperous areas. It's another example of our ongoing community programme, a programme that's been designed to help communities to help themselves. Any enquiries relating to FutureStart should be sent to: Harry Fitzgibbons, Managing Director, Top Technology Limited, 20-21 Took's Court, Cursitor Street, London EC4A 3LB. Tel: 071-242 9900.

BT

A pain-free Feherty is eager for his Cup debut

By MITCHELL PLATTIS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Feherty yesterday revealed how close he came to being forced to withdraw from next week's Ryder Cup match because of a wrist injury, aggravated during the US PGA Championship last month.

Feherty was so worried that he paid out a five-figure sum to cure the problem. He twice flew to South Africa to see Ivan Levinrad, a sports physiotherapist, for treatment. "It meant missing the last two Johnnie Walker points-counting events, but I had to take that gamble to ensure my fitness," Feherty said. "I didn't want to take the risk of finding out when it was time to get on board Concorde that I was not fit to play."

"I was in a panic because the injury was so painful, I was taking tablets but I knew I had to stop. So I went to see Ivan, whom I've known for eight years and I had faith in, and he put the problem right. He told me the treatment would hurt but that it would cure me. It has."

Feherty, who will attempt to bring his game back to its best in the Epsom Grand Prix which starts at the St Pierre



Feherty: clear of injury

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	376	4	10	382	4
2	388	5	11	400	4
3	417	5	12	345	4
4	420	4	13	218	3
5	402	4	14	321	4
6	472	5	15	378	4
7	398	4	16	464	5
8	473	4	17	451	4
9	473	4	18	297	3

Out: 3,252 Yds In: 3,689 Yds
Total yardage: 6,941 Yds

Club, Chesham today, has also been running four miles each day as part of an intensive fitness programme. He has shed 12lbs and lost an inch from his waistline, which could be an embarrassment to the Ryder Cup team.

He has played only twice since he finished joint seventh in the US PGA Championship. "But I'm looking forward to playing in the Ryder Cup for the first time," he said. "I am as mentally and physically fit as I have ever been."

Feherty is one of six members of Europe's team, which leaves on Monday for the match at Kiawah Island, competing this week. Colin Montgomerie, Steven Richardson, David Gifford, Mark James and Jose Maria Olazabal are also seeking to win a first prize of £75,000.

Ian Woosnam, Nick Faldo and Severiano Ballesteros are all resting prior to the Ryder Cup, which is a pity for Epsom, who with this event end a five-year association with the PGA European Tour.

Montgomerie and Richardson will each hope to profit by the absence of Ballesteros, who leads the Volvo order of merit with £413,753. Montgomerie (£295,083) and Richardson (£284,035) are aware that time is running out for them to catch him.

Jockey Club rejects Ayr Silver Cup proposals

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

TOMORROW'S Ladbroke Ayr Gold Cup was clouded by controversy yesterday after it was disclosed that the Jockey Club has rejected a proposed £30,000 consolation race for the large number of horses balloted out of Europe's richest sprint handicap.

Sixty-nine horses were declared for the £75,000 Gold Cup at the five-day stage and with a maximum of 29 places, there will be more horses balloted out than run - for the second successive year.

The idea of an Ayr Silver Cup - as the second race would have been known - came from Jack Berry two years ago. It was taken

up by Mike Dillon, of Ladbroke, and David McHarg, clerk of the course, who wrote to Portman Square following last year's race.

Ladbroke was prepared to sponsor the consolation race on the same day as their main race. Owners' entry fees of £500 for the Gold Cup would have boosted the silver cup purse and, with money from Ayr racecourse, little or no Levy Board support would have been required.

Dillon said owners who entered their horse for the Ayr Gold Cup could have indicated on their entry form if they wanted to run in the consolation race in the event of being balloted out.

The Jockey Club rejected the

plan because of "thousands of practical problems involved". David Pipe, the Jockey Club's director of public affairs, said yesterday.

Instead the race-planning department agreed to provide Ayr with a separate six-furlong race on Friday, which has £5,000 of Levy Board support. "We felt it was a very interesting idea that was put forward. But we were concerned with the rules and regulations with regards to prize-money and the general conclusion it would have brought to the system," John Smeed of the race-planning department, said.

McHarg put a brave face on the setback yesterday. "I am not knocking the Jockey Club because they had a lot on their

mind when we put this forward. During the next few months we will go back to them with a new proposal and hope they listen to it sympathetically."

While the consolation race would undoubtedly have caused difficulties for racing's administrators, the idea is sound and the lack of flexibility within the race-planning structure would appear to be the problem.

Sarcia was displaced as favourite for the Ayr Gold Cup yesterday after it was confirmed that Willie Carson will not be available to ride David Esmond's sprinter.

Brett Doyle, who rode Sarcia to victory at Goodwood in July, takes over the plum ride. Gentle Hero, the new 12-1 favourite

with the sponsors, will also be ridden by a claimer, Colin Munday, as Michael Roberts is also unavailable.

Carson, who is required at Newbury on Friday, made the most of his shortened visit to Ayr when he completed a 72-1 treble on the opening day of the Western meeting on Rawlabe, Bold Stroke and Azzam.

The Scottish-born jockey was seen at his forceful best, culminating in a record ride on Azzam in the day's feature race, the Donside Cup.

The winner of last year's November Handicap made all the running and sped away from his rivals in the final furlong to finish ten lengths clear of Spinning, breaking the track record by 1.2 seconds.

John Dunlop, who made the long journey from his Sussex base, may now try to find a group race abroad for Azzam.

The stewards held an enquiry into the running of Spence, the 7-4 favourite, who finished last, beaten more than 17 lengths. Ray Cochrane reported that Spence "was not feeling right at any stage and hanging throughout the race", while trainer John Fitzgerald told the stewards that the horse had run "well below expectations".

The stewards accepted the explanations.

Bold Stroke, the only favourite to oblige, had initiated a Dunlop double when coming clear by four lengths from Court Circular in the Sandgate Maiden Stakes.

MANDARIN

2.15 You Are A Star. 2.45 Magic Soldier. 3.15 Dancing Eyes. 3.45 Brandeston. 4.15 Monner. 4.45 Fly The Wind. 5.15 Rock Face.

THUNDERER
2.15 You Are A Star. 2.45 Magic Soldier. 3.15 Dancing Eyes. 3.45 Clever Folly. 4.15 St Louis Blues. 4.45 Fly The Wind. 5.15 Rock Face.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)

2.15 CHASE WINDOWS NOVICES HURDLE

1.354 YOU ARE A STAR (2) M. Tompkins 5-11.5
2.05 DUNFELLA 150 (3) F. Sneyd 5-10.12
3.05 LOCK KEEPER 150 (4) J. Sneyd 5-10.12
4.05 MIDDLEWELL 280 (5) S. Craven 5-10.12
5.05 MORE COOL 6 (6) P. Hays 5-10.12
6.05 SCOTCH 185 (7) M. Sneyd 5-10.12
7.05 SOLID FUEL 280 (8) M. Sneyd 5-10.12
8.05 THUNDERER 150 (9) A. Jones 5-10.12
9.05 CASTLE KING 150 (10) A. Jones 5-10.12
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142.05 HUTTON MARINE 150 (143) S. Sneyd 5-10.12
143.05 THE POINT 150 (144) M. Sneyd 5-10.12
144.05 DARTY 150 (145) J. Sneyd 5-10.12
145.05 BANG OF HORN 150 (146) J. Sneyd 5-10.12
146.05 VIGLA 150 (147) P. Hays 5-10.12
147.05 CASTLE KING 150 (148) P. Hays 5-10.12
148.05 HUTTON MARINE 150 (149) S. Sneyd 5-10.12
149.05 THE POINT 150 (150) M. Sneyd 5-10.12
150.05 DARTY 150 (151) J. Sneyd 5-10.12
151.05 BANG OF HORN 150 (152) J. Sneyd 5-10.12
152.05 VIGLA 150 (153) P. Hays 5-10.12
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170.05 VIGLA 150 (171) P. Hays 5-10.12
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181.05 BANG OF HORN 150 (182) J. Sneyd 5-10.12
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183.05 CASTLE KING 150 (184) P. Hays 5-10.12
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263.05 THE POINT 150 (264) M. Sneyd 5-10.12
264.05 DARTY 150 (265) J. Sneyd 5-10.12
265.05 BANG OF HORN 150 (266) J. Sneyd 5-10.12
266.05 VIGLA 150 (267) P. Hays 5-10.12
267.05 CASTLE KING 150 (2

